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Near East & South Asia

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Daily Report
Near East & South Asia

FBIS-NES-95-009 *13 January 1995*

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Arab-Israeli Talks

Peres Said To Have Met Syrian Defense Minister's Daughter

TA1301091295 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0500 GMT 13 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Qol Yisra'el's diplomatic reporter says the person with whom Foreign Minister Peres met secretly in Paris on Tuesday [10 January] was apparently the daughter of Syrian Defense Minister Mustafa Talas. She has lived in the French capital for a long time and is said to have met with several Israelis in the past.

Syrian Negotiators See Israeli 'Backtracking'

MM1201143295 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 11 Jan 95 p 3

[Report by Ibrahim Humaydi: "Al-Shihabi's and Baraq's Return to Washington Depends on Syrian Assessment of Results"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Damascus—Syrian Chief of Staff General Hikmat al-Shihabi's return to Damascus and the Israeli chief of staff's return to Tel Aviv will be followed by consultations between the two military officials and their governments, although the preliminary Syrian assessment of the talks complements the assessment of the Israeli position over the past three years. A Syrian source announced that Israeli negotiators submitted "impossible" proposals which Syria cannot fulfill and which conflict with Syria's acceptance of "the objective peace requirements."

It seems that the final assessment of the negotiations will determine whether the two military delegations will return [to Washington to continue the negotiations] with Ambassadors Walid al-Mu'allim and Itamar Rabinovich or whether the Syrian and Israeli ambassadors will continue the negotiations on their own. Or whether the Syrian and Israeli sides believe that these negotiations have not achieved their aim, thus prompting the U.S. Administration to send Secretary Warren Christopher or Dennis Ross, coordinator of the peace process, to Damascus to find a new dialogue channel and to "bridge the gap" between the Syrian and Israeli sides.

In the light of what has been announced by officials from both sides, the security negotiations produced no direct results. However, they enabled the two sides to explore the nature of the security arrangements proposed by either side as regards the Golan Heights after the Israeli forces withdraw from them. This is in addition to their views of one another's position on the issues of withdrawal, normalization, and simultaneity, hence completing the picture for the U.S. side on the one hand and Israel and Syria on the other, in order to look for points of close approximation between them for the sake of signing a peace accord which Syrian officials unanimously say would be different from the previous accords reached on the Jordanian and Palestinian tracks.

But Syrian officials declare that the talks conducted by their negotiators revealed "a backtracking in Israel's position on peace," as has been the case over recent decades. "Whenever we move one step toward them, they move two steps away from us." So they [Syrian negotiators] are not prepared to embark on a fundamental step (according to the Israeli concept) such as Syria's announcement of its acceptance of full normalization with Israel or its initial acceptance of partial withdrawal as a "trust-building measure." Officials believe that the Israelis submitted proposals concerning security, withdrawal, and normalization, but these are far from "the possibility of being accepted by any Arab." And they do not indicate a desire for "an equal peace that can last." The Israelis want to withdraw from part of the Golan Heights while retaining part, in return for opening an Israeli embassy in Damascus immediately and opening the border for trade, economic, and tourist exchange, specifying, for example, the number of tourist groups to be exchanged and setting the trade exchange volume at $500 million a year. This is in addition to other requests concerning Syrian press commentaries and school books.

Recent security negotiations have shown that the Israelis want advanced observation posts on the Syrian side as well as early warning systems on the Golan Heights, in addition to changes in the Army's concentrations.

But the Syrian side insists on full withdrawal from the Golan, including east Lake Tiberias and al-Himmah—which was summed up by the phrase 4 June [1967] borders, that is the territories occupied by Israeli forces in 1967. It also insists on not specifying details of the peace because the matter concerns the position of Syrian citizens and "the extent of their satisfaction with the Israelis' peace attitudes and abandonment of the policy of hegemony." It also believes that it is necessary for the Israeli side "to prepare Israeli public opinion for the issue of peace with Syria." An Syrian official pointed to a recent decline in the number of those supporting peace with the Arabs, "because there have been no preparations for actual peace, compared with the preparations for hegemony" in the region.

Officials unanimously agree that the peace negotiations are at a "sensitive stage" and in a state of "tension" between the two sides. And that their failure would lead to a "violent" return to the [previous] situation in the region. However, they believe that the gaps between the two countries' positions on the question of achieving peace can be narrowed to achieve a comprehensive solution on the basis of two factors: the U.S. desire to achieve a peaceful settlement in the Middle East, and the possibility of Israel's changing its peace "strategy" and attitude toward the Arabs from [the idea of] "merging" the region into it to "merging" it into the region.

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This should prompt the U.S. side to continue its efforts and to send Christopher or Ross on a shuttle tour to continue the negotiations, albeit with a new method that convinces the Syrian negotiator "to continue to work for peace in a more effective manner" by convincing the Syrian side that his security negotiations are based on their views, proceeding from the fact that the Golan will be restored in full to Syria and that security guarantees include and guarantee this. But without doubt the issue is much bigger and "more complex" than the Golan issue.

Sha'th, Israel's Liba'i Meet on Prisoner Release

TA1301104295 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1000 GMT 13 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Nabil Sha'th of the Palestinian Authority says that this morning's meeting with Justice Minister Liba'i on the prisoner release was good and productive. The Palestinians consider the release of prisoners to be a key issue, he said, and the release of the 35 female prisoners is of the highest priority.

Minister Liba'i that no dates for a prisoner release were determined at the meeting. He told our correspondent Ya'el Ayalon that he intends to appoint a committee that will be authorized to determine which prisoners will be released, but its work will begin only after a ministerial committee decides on its work criteria.

Inter-Arab Affairs

League Chief Returns to Egypt, Criticizes Rabin

NC1201203795 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1910 GMT 12 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Cairo, 12 Jan (MENA)—Arab League Secretary General Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid returned to Cairo this evening at the end of a 10-day Arab tour that took him to Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, and the United Arab Emirates.

In remarks upon arrival in Cairo, 'Abd-al-Majid said Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin's recent statements on preparation for war do not serve the peace process and came at the wrong time. [passage omitted]

Islamic Affairs

Political Islam Review: AL-SHA'B 23 Dec

NC1201083195

[FBIS Editorial Report] The following is a comprehensive review of all items in the 23 December edition of the Arabic-language newspaper AL-SHA'B that pertain to political Islamic issues.

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1. Labor Party's 'Adil Husayn Views U.S.-Israeli 'Ferocious Onslaught' on Egypt
2. Seventh ICO Summit Evaluated
3. 1994 Events Reviewed

LABOR PARTY'S 'ADIL HUSAYN VIEWS U.S.-ISRAELI 'FEROCIOUS ONSLAUGHT' ON EGYPT

Labor Party Secretary General 'Adil Husayn, currently in police custody on charges including possession of antigovernment Islamist leaflets, publishes a 4,000-word article on page 5 in which he speaks of a U.S.-Israeli "ferocious onslaught" on Egypt and proposes ways of confronting it. In his article, entitled "A U.S.-Zionist Alliance With Businessmen and People in the Government," he says that visits by Israeli and U.S. officials "now merely serve to convey to us insolent demands in an imperative manner that brooks no argument."

He warns of plans to maintain Israeli military superiority and refers to existing and requested U.S. bases on Egyptian territory, saying: "It is known that there is a U.S. base in Sinai the installations and operations of which do not come under the Egyptian State's supervision. The United States is no longer satisfied with this base and is importunely demanding a new base in Ra's Banas on the Red Sea on the pretext of maintaining the security of the Gulf (without any participation by the Egyptian army). This is a demand that has been rejected in the past, ever since al-Sadat's era. It is also known that this base—if it is built—will not use its prowess against the Gulf alone, but also against the heart of Egypt."

Husayn warns of the harm to Egypt's "geopolitical importance" that will result from building an Israeli canal from the Gulf of Aqabah to the Mediterranean drawing revenue away from the Suez Canal. He also deplores the inclusion of Israel in the Arab oil pipeline network, declaring that the Egyptian Government "has approved the establishment of the Sidi Karir refinery as a joint Egyptian-Israeli venture."

He refers to IMF demands that Egyptian interest rates be amended and the Egyptian pound devalued and says that the IMF punishes Egypt when it resists its demands by preventing creditors from writing off debts.

Husayn says he recently read a limited-issue U.S. report about a conference held in Washington in April 1992 under the heading: "National Security: An Inquiry Into Existing Global Threats and Their Consequences for the U.S. Armed Forces." It sought, he says, to assess existing threats to U.S. interests. He reports that the conference concluded that the Arab and Muslim regions will be the scenes of intensive conflicts that never reach the point of total war, something described as Low-Intensity Conflicts. Husayn uses the acronym LIC to describe these conflicts. He adds that to prepare for these developments, the Americans are carrying out a large information-gathering operation and making other preparations. He asks: "Do you realize how they prepare for the confrontation, using lies and misleading tactics and watching their opponents and assassinating them?" He

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cites the U.S. report as saying that it is necessary to "establish a broad network in the enemies' territory to facilitate our men's escape to safe places. It is necessary to secure the cooperation of local agents to supply our men with houses and transport. Our men must also be provided with necessary documents including false identification papers and passports. They must also be supplied with accurate information about the concerned country's laws and security measures."

The writer then refers to U.S. and Israeli "infiltration of state and society institutions" in Egypt, asking: "What do the thousands of Americans who work at the Embassy do? What are the tasks of those who are not employees?"

'Adil Husayn continues: "As for the Israelis who entered the country as tourists with false passports and then vanished, instead of leaving the country, what are they doing now? The security services arrested many of these people while they were carrying out acts of sabotage. But it is certain that the security services are concentrating their efforts on fighting the instigators of domestic violence rather than pursuing spies and saboteurs."

Husayn blames the government for failing to curtail corruption and says he believes "the U.S.-Zionist infiltration is linked with the corruption ring via various societies and clubs."

The writer declares that the government is unable to confront the danger or protect the country and he proposes an alternative to the current economic reform program that would be in line with "the Islamic and nationalist method," but that eschews the "free-for-all market system advocated by the United States and international organizations." He calls for private sector competition supervised by the state but opposes "squandering" existing public sector assets. He provides no specifics but calls for extending the economic effort outside Egypt, saying that in emulation of Europe "we can achieve our Arab unity in stages, beginning with Egyptian integration with Libya and Sudan."

'Adil Husayn adds: "Such integration will strengthen our collective security and fulfill the mutual interests of all the parties. For us in Egypt this integration will solve all our population and food problems and double our industrial output and exports. In short this integration will extricate us from all our crises, providing it is carried out by a government with clean hands that is both religious and competent."

He accuses the Egyptian Government of failing to solve its problems with Sudan, the government of which, he says, "adopts an Islamic socioeconomic policy," and sees the recent Islamic summit in Casablanca and the subsequent Gulf Cooperation Council summit in Bahrain focusing only on fighting Islamic "extremism" and "terrorism" [Husayn's quotation marks].

Commenting on these recent Arab and Islamic governmental meetings, he declares: "Although I disagree with hardliners and those who call for an Islamic solution by violent methods, I certainly do not believe that the recent summits are an example of rallying around God. Such Arab governmental moves serve the U.S- Zionist scheme that fears a Muslim reawakening."

He concludes by advocating "free elections that will topple the corrupters" and declares: "At any rate we are not waiting for a free gift from anyone, but are waiting for the people to rely on God and take their fate into their own hands. It is the nation that will proclaim its Islam, confront the enemies' plots, endure the hardships of jihad, and eventually gain freedom with their own hands. And God is great."

SEVENTH ICO SUMMIT EVALUATED

Dr. 'Isam al-'Aryan, in a 1,500-word article on page 2, assesses the mid-December 1994 Islamic Conference Organization [ICO] summit in Casablanca. He notes Moroccan King Hassan II's opening session proposal to establish an Islamic jurisprudence authority that would determine what was religiously right and wrong. But the writer expects that such a scheme would run into many obstacles, because the public in various Sunni Islamic countries—as opposed to Shiite Muslims, who recognize a supreme jurisprudence authority—rely more on popular Islamic movements and leaders and trust them more than they do establishment Islam. He criticizes the ICO summit's "strange declaration" denouncing extremism and terrorism and blames the conferees for blurring the difference between "thought and action, between exaggerated zeal and extremism in ideology, and between actual violence and terrorism." He finds comfort in the summit's also denouncing "state terrorism" and "reemphasizing the national resistance right to confront Israeli occupation."

On this point he says: "These are positive points that allay the sharpness of the remarks and statements made against the Islamic reawakening and the attendant hints made by some government leaders who face a growing Islamic tide in their countries."

Al-'Aryan blames the summit for failing to give sufficient backing to Bosnia-Herzegovina or the Jerusalem issue and for "supporting the PLO and its process of capitulationary negotiations."

A boxed 100-word statement attached to the item and signed by AL- SHA'B praises the ICO for its "honorable stance regarding Libya and Iraq" despite "its passive attitude to some important issues like Bosnia and Jerusalem."

The statement notes that the ICO backed Libya against "U.S. pressures" and that it "welcomed Baghdad's initiative to recognize Kuwaiti sovereignty." AL-SHA'B notes that what was hoped for was "a unanimous stance rejecting the unjust resolution prolonging the siege of the Iraqi people."

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1994 Events Reviewed

AL-SHA'B devotes page 4 to a 6,000-word review of major 1994 events. The review, prepared by Tariq 'Abd-al-Hamid, adopts a tone critical of the government and tackles issues ranging from Casablanca's economic summit conference in late October 1994 to domestic cases of corruption.

Reviewing the June/July National Dialogue Congress organized by President Mubarak, the reviewer says that the congress failed to achieve its aims because the reports prepared by its political, economic, and social committees "did not truthfully mirror what took place during the conference, and the debates were summarized by a secret committee all the members of which were drawn from the [ruling] National Democratic party [NDP]." The reviewer adds: "A scandalous case of forgery was seen in the economic committee when all the observations made by the opposition parties (Labor, Liberal, and National Progressive Unionist Grouping) were struck out despite their great significance. They were replaced by NDP observations."

The review notes that the People's Assembly "rubber-stamped" a bill in April extending emergency laws in the country for three years. Opposition figure al-Dimardash al-'Iqali is cited as saying that this means the regime wants to "rule by iron and fire."

The review criticizes the government's "shortcomings" in handling the flood disaster in several Upper Egypt provinces in early November, its intervention in university student council elections, and its handling of factory workers' unrest in Kafr al-Dawwar in October. It raps movie industry figures for visiting Israel and harangues the UN International Conference on Population and Development [ICPD], which was held in Cairo in September. The review recalls that the Labor Party's 'Adil Husayn announced at the time that the ICPD document sought to "propagate debauchery" and that since the U.S. Supreme Court permitted abortion in 1973 "30 million unborn babies have been killed." 'Adil Husayn described this as "history's greatest massacre."

The review blames the 13-year state of emergency and police action on the ongoing violence in the country and calls on the president to stop referring cases to military courts.

Palestinian Affairs

'Arafat on Peace Obstacles, Arab Relations

JN1201210995 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1945 GMT 12 Jan 95

[Interview with Yasir 'Arafat, PLO Executive Committee chairman and head of the Palestinian Authority by Basim Abu-Sumayyah; place and date not given—recorded]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Abu-Sumayyah] Mr. President, let us begin with the most important issues which obstruct the peace agreement. No sooner do the Palestinians and the Israelis agree to settle a current crisis than another crisis emerges while the peace negotiations revolve in a vicious circle without any progress. What are the causes of these recurrent crises?

['Arafat] There is noticeable procrastination by the Israeli side with respect to what was agreed on. For example, until now, the safe passage between Gaza and Jericho has not been opened. There are also the elections. Under the agreement, the elections should have been held in July of last year. These elections, as yet, have not been held. There are also other things having to do with the crossing points which, after nine months, have not yet been finalized. It is obvious that the Israeli party takes into consideration only its own security without paying any heed to our security as well, and takes into account only its own viewpoint and not ours. There are other things, too.

[Abu-Sumayyah] Mr. President, one notices that the most prominent obstacles on the ground is what is happening in terms of settlement activities in the occupied Palestinian territories?

['Arafat] For example, the following are some of the points on which agreement was reached. The agreement bans the establishment of new settlements, the confiscation of land, bringing in new settlers into these new settlements. What is happening? There is land confiscation, new settlements are being built, and the settlers attack the masses day and night.

[Abu-Sumayyah] If the current settlement drive is not suspended, what about the future of the peace process?

['Arafat] There is no doubt that this will be a very negative point that will negatively affect the entire peace process.

[Abu-Sumayyah] Mr. President, Yasir 'Arafat knows what he wants. He wants the establishment of a Palestinian state in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip with Jerusalem as capital. But, there are settlement, demographic, and political facts, specifically in Jerusalem. Vast areas of the city that are being confiscated. What about the future of the city, the expected capital of the state of Palestine?

['Arafat] They have no right to effect any demographic change in Jerusalem, and they cannot discuss this issue before the beginning of the third year. Any measure that contravenes this violates the agreement. There is also the complete isolation of Jerusalem and banning Muslims and Christians from performing their religious rites.

[Abu-Sumayyah] Yes, and I also said that there are also political facts which I hope will be applied to Jerusalem, and this will be the main obstacle....

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['Arafat, interrupting] The peace talks began and we went to Madrid on the basis of Resolution 242; land in exchange for peace. Land for peace means the territories that were occupied in 1967, including Jerusalem. The discussion of this issue, as well as that of the settlements will take place at the beginning of the third year; Jerusalem and the settlements, the old refugees. The issue of new refugees should be discussed immediately at the first meeting of the four-way committee that comprises Jordan, Egypt, Palestine, and Israel to enable the displaced who left in 1967 to return to their homes.

[Abu-Sumayyah] There is another obstacle facing the implementation of the provisions of the Declaration of Principles; that of the redeployment of the Israeli forces. It seems there is disagreement on this. Mr. President, is there any progress in this respect?

['Arafat] So far, there has been no progress. We hope that important progress would take place soon. Otherwise, this means that there will be no elections because elections will not be held with the presence of the Israeli forces. The elections are directly linked to the Israeli withdrawal.

[Abu-Sumayyah] Then, what is the secret for Israel's procrastination in implementing the redeployment?

['Arafat] Because they do not want to withdraw. They will delay their withdrawal until they establish new facts having to do with settlements.

[Abu-Sumayyah] When do you expect elections to be held, and how will the legislative elections be held in the Palestinian territory?

['Arafat] We hope that the issue of the elections will be settled as quickly as possible. The negotiating delegation in Cairo is on the verge of reaching agreement concerning our comprehensive concept of the elections.

[Abu-Sumayyah] News reports mentioned yesterday that Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin will submit to your excellency maps on redeployment at the next meeting....

['Arafat, interrupting] This report is inaccurate. A meeting will be held, but there is no such talk. Of course, we have a timetable of our own concerning these meetings. [words indistinct] We hope that [words indistinct]

[Abu-Sumayyah] Are you still convinced of Rabin's peace intentions and those of the Israeli government?

['Arafat] There is no doubt about this. When we signed, we signed the peace of the brave. Opposition exists on both sides. Regrettably, the Israeli opposition exploits and is exploited itself to procrastinate in the implementation of what was agreed.

[Abu-Sumayyah] Do you believe that any Israeli elections with the Israeli public opinion having the current ideological frame of will allow any Israeli leader to accept the principle of a Palestinian state in future?

['Arafat] This issue should be discussed at the beginning of the third year, that is the final solution.

[Abu-Sumayyah] Mr. President, under Israeli law, every Jew has the right to live in Israel. Can you obtain this same right for the Palestinians in the diaspora. Under Israeli law, every Israeli has the right to live in Israel with complete freedom. Can the Palestinian have a right to live in this Palestinian state?

['Arafat] This is a sacred right. Have we made it (?for a part) of the Palestinians? This the state of the Palestinians wherever they are, at home and abroad.

[Abu-Sumayyah] How do you see the shape of the future relations with Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] and other opposition Palestinian movements?

['Arafat] We are people who believe in democracy. We have exercised democracy in a jungle of rifles. Therefore, we are eager now to exercise this democracy and pluralism on the national soil. We welcome the opposition. We welcome the other opinion. My opinion may differ with yours, but I am ready to (?die) to defend your freedom of expression, as Voltaire said. At the same time, I hope that everyone will endeavor to build this homeland and to give this Palestinian newborn the chance to grow up and firmly establish itself. This Palestinian entity is the dream of every Palestinian everywhere. It is a democratic Palestinian state for the free and honorable ones, for the entire people.

[Abu-Sumayyah] Mr. President, the Jordanian-Palestinian relationship has witnessed some fluctuations recently and we know that you will be visiting Jordan soon.

['Arafat] Why do you say fluctuations? They [the Jordanians] have their problems and we have our problems, and you know that they are experiencing difficult circumstances. However, the relationship is continuing, and our contacts have not ceased on all levels.

[Abu-Sumayyah] You will visit Jordan soon. When will that be?

['Arafat] No date has been set yet, but, God willing, it will be soon.

[Abu-Sumayyah] What about relations with the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia?

['Arafat] They are good relations. You know that I visited Saudi Arabia twice recently. Our contacts are continuing with the Saudi brothers and with His Majesty King Fahd, the custodian of the two holy mosques. Don't forget that Saudi Arabia is a major country in the meeting of the donor nations which extend aid to the Palestinians.

[Abu-Sumayyah] This prompts me to ask about the attitude of the donor states toward the delay of the aid. What is the secret behind this?

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['Arafat] I am not the only one to complain about this; the Third World in its entirety complains about this. Forget the Third World. Take Russia. How many promises were given to Russia? Russia is still a superpower that has a nuclear arsenal. Russia was promised $24 billion but it has only received $800 million. We will not be better than any other state in the Third World.

[Abu-Sumayyah] The promises did not change. Are there political reasons behind the delay?

['Arafat] Call them political reasons, private reasons, but the fact remains the same.

[Abu-Sumayyah] What do you think of the developing relations between Iraq and France?

['Arafat] I think Iraq's relations with all the European countries and the United States will change by the end of this year, at the latest.

[Abu-Sumayyah] Do you expect Francois Mitterrand to visit the self-rule areas [words indistinct].

['Arafat] I invite him in the name of our people, in the name of the Palestinian Council of Ministers, and in the name of our children. We welcome him as an old friend and we take pride in his friendship.

[Abu-Sumayyah] Talking about the current economic conditions and as you embark on a process of construction, what do you have to say to Palestinian investors abroad?

['Arafat] They have started to contribute and to arrive. However, we are still in the beginning and you know that there are many difficulties because of the general situation, and we must take into consideration this situation. We do not ask for the impossible. But, the Palestinian investors have started to arrive in their homeland. Don't forget, for example, that there are 11 banks [words indistinct].

[Abu-Sumayyah] One last question, what is the difference between the lifestyle of Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] as a rebel in the diaspora and as a president of the state of Palestine?

['Arafat] [Words indistinct] not the president of the state of Palestine. When we were in the diaspora, did we not take care of charitable organizations, universities, schools, education, health, and social affairs? Practically, we were a state in exile. Nothing differed except that there are now more burdens.

[Abu-Sumayyah] Mr. President Yasir 'Arafat, thank you very much.

Views PA Achievements, Other Issues

JN1001150095 London AL-WASAT in Arabic 9-15 Jan 95 pp 8, 9

[Interview with Yasir 'Arafat, PLO Executive Committee chairman and PA president, by Ghassan Sharbal; place and date not given]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Sharbal] Now, at the start of 1995, how do you evaluate the achievements of the Oslo agreement?

['Arafat] I would say thank God. We have set foot on the beginning of the road, on the first liberated Palestinian land and established the Palestinian Authority [PA]. We believe achievements so far are basic and important steps toward the implementation of the Palestinian-Israeli Declaration of Principles [DOP] Agreement. These should be followed by the implementation of the interim stage represented in transferring powers to the PA in the rest of the West Bank areas, Israeli withdrawal from cities, villages, camps, and population centers, repositioning Israeli troops, releasing our prisoners from Israeli prisons, holding legislative elections, and repatriating the displaced persons.

These measures and steps should be implemented expeditiously so we can devote our time, at the beginning of the third year, to the final-status talks and to resolving the four issues we consider basic: Jerusalem, refugees, settlement activity, and borders—the borders of our independent Palestinian state, and holy Jerusalem, its capital. The important thing is that we should give our people and their cause their prominence on the region's political and geographical map, amid these serious international developments under the new world order.

[Sharbal] It was suggested that the delay in extending aid is linked to the delay in building Palestinian establishments. What do you think?

['Arafat] No doubt, the delay in extending aid has an impact on the process of building, on building establishments and on setting up economic, social, and other structures. At the very beginning, I said I expected the donor nations would not honor their pledges and obligations, given the way they deal with Third World countries and the way the World Bank fabricates pretexts not to channel aid and grants to these countries. When I said this, I wanted to be frank with the sons of my great people, who have offered innumerable sacrifices throughout all the years of struggle. I said that in addition to the donor nations' pledges, we should rely on ourselves in implementing our plans, and that we should rely on the will of the Palestinian people in building the homeland, lest we stop in the beginning or in the middle of the road.

Aid is still confined to promises. Even after the Brussels' meeting, and after these states admitted they were remiss, the aid is still promises and we have received only meager amounts. In confronting this, we are relying on our people. This is the only available realistic option. Thanks to our people's will and sacrifices, we have taken good strides so far in the process of building our national establishments. We have merged Palestinian establishments based abroad with those based on Palestinian land and transferred their cadres in order to contribute to building the homeland. Everybody is building the homeland, hand by hand, because it is the homeland of all

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Palestinians. This will help us confront unforeseen conditions. As for development and promotion plans, especially in the areas of infrastructure and rehabilitation, they are still awaiting these international promises. I say frankly that a failure to honor these promises will endanger the entire peace process.

[Sharbal] Is there any possibility of amending the Oslo agreement. Who is seeking to amend it?

['Arafat] Although we have scores of observations about the texts of the agreement, we reject any amendment to the Oslo agreement because we do not want to see it foiled. Isn't it enough that Israeli prevarication in the implementation talks is designed to avoid some of the agreement's provisions? I say it frankly, we believe Israeli is facing an acid test now. We call on Israel to implement, in letter and spirit, all that was agreed on in the DOP so we can finalize the steps and measures of the interim period and enter, as I said, the final-status talks, which will settle all issues once and for all. We are seeking deeds, not promises of implementation.

[Sharbal] You have been expected to visit Jordan. However, this visit has been postponed. When will you make this visit? What are the key outstanding issues between you and Jordan? Are they related to economic agreements, or to the Jordanian role in supervising the holy shrines?

['Arafat] As far as I am concerned, I would like to make the visit soon, God willing. I am concerned about averting any Palestinian-Jordanian differences. Jordan has recognized the PLO as the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people and declared that the Palestinian holy shrines will return to Palestinian sovereignty once the Palestinians regain their sovereignty over the occupied Palestinian territories, including Jerusalem, the eternal capital of our independent Palestinian state. As far as Arabs and Muslims are concerned, the Islamic summit held in Casablanca, Morocco settled this issue. During my next visit to Jordan, we will discuss many important issues and mutual concerns. We will debate these issues in detail in order to reach full agreement, particularly with regard to economy, transit, joint projects, and displaced persons, etc.

[Sharbal] How would you describe your relations with Hamas [the Islamic Resistance Movement] at present? What lessons have you learned from your recent test of strength with this movement?

['Arafat] There is an ongoing dialogue between Fatah and Hamas. Dialogue never ceases with Hamas, the Islamic Jihad, the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, or the Arab Liberation Front. The dialogue is continuing in various ways and methods. There is nothing called a test of strength between us. One more thing, between whom and whom can the test of strength you have spoken about be? The Palestinian National Authority is meant to promote the interests of all Palestinians. There are no two disputing or equal parties. We are still willing to engage in a dialogue with Hamas and other factions with a high sense of responsibility and seriousness regarding the proper way to deal with the authority or with Fatah. As I have just told you, the dialogue with them is continuing. Some of these factions have repeatedly announced their readiness to take part in elections. We uphold and promote national unity. National unity is the guardian and protector of our people.

[Sharbal] You have accused Iran of supporting the parties that seek to undermine peace efforts. Can you elaborate on this issue?

['Arafat] Do you not hear and read Iranian statements? The Iranians support and pay anyone who seeks to undermine the peace process. There is no need for me to go into detail in this regard. This issue is quite obvious, as evinced by Iranian confessions. Nonetheless, we will firmly confront any efforts to undermine the Palestinian people's destiny, future, and national cause, and any attempt to interfere in our domestic affairs.

[Sharbal] What are the latest developments regarding the issue of holding Palestinian elections? What do you have to say about the redeployment of the Israeli Army?

['Arafat] At a news conference last week in the aftermath of a meeting between myself and Shim'on Peres, Peres announced the Israeli Government's commitment to the implementation of the Palestinian-Israeli agreement signed in Washington, as well as the Cairo agreement. They [the Israelis] will work with the PA to implement this agreement, particularly with regard to elections, redeployment, and handing over the remaining powers in the rest of the West Bank. Let us wait and see what the Palestinian-Israeli negotiations currently under way in Cairo produce. For our part, we insist on an Israeli commitment to the agreement and to the holding of elections. An Israeli troop withdrawal from Palestinian cities, villages, camps, and population centers, and their redeployment elsewhere are key elements of the Palestinian-Israeli Declaration of Principles. There is no chance that we can drop our demands for their implementation. We insist on this matter. It is to be recalled that the elections were slated to be held in July 1994. Nonetheless, we have recently seen persistent efforts by some Israeli power centers to scuttle the agreement and destroy the peace process, as manifested by the incidents that have taken place at the Erez checkpoint and in al-Khidr.

[Sharbal] The PLO Executive Committee appears to be in a state of confusion. Some members boycott it, others support it but with reservations, and some others are seeking a role in it. What do you say?

['Arafat] There is no confusion. Instead, we have different interpretations and a fertile land for democracy and persistent struggle to build our homeland and achieve our national goals. The Palestinian National Authority's relationship with the PLO is a constitutional

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and political one. The PLO is a term of reference. It is this body that has established the PA and legalized its program and positions. All this has taken place through the PLO Central Council. I invite everybody who has certain observations and interpretations to come to the homeland and share with us the burden of building, the burden of challenges, and the burden of major jihad. There is a central decision to maintain some institutions outside the homeland during the transitional period.

[Sharbal] Syria accuses you of making unilateral deals and concessions. Do you believe a Syrian-Israeli peace is imminent? Are there secret negotiations?

['Arafat] We have not made any unilateral deals or any concessions. We all went to the peace conference in Madrid. Despite attempts to obliterate the Palestinian people, we strived to impose them on the new world's political map of the region and we waged a fierce battle in the Washington talks to create a Palestinian-Israeli track, to form an independent delegation, and to wrest an Israeli recognition of the Palestinian people and their right to self-determination.

Before going to Madrid, everybody knew that a solution was proposed to the Palestinian people in two stages, in accordance with the letter of invitation to attend the peace conference in Madrid. These stages will take time during which the brothers in Syria and Lebanon will solve their problems with Israel. We all, then, will together sign a comprehensive and just peace treaty, which will ensure the retrieval of all the occupied Arab territories, including Jerusalem and the Palestinian people's legitimate rights, their right to self-determination, and the establishment of an independent Palestinian state with holy Jerusalem as its capital. Such a peace should be achieved via all the Arab tracks.

We hope progress will be made on the Syrian and Lebanese tracks to bolster the whole peace process. We will not relinquish any particle of our soil.

[Sharbal] Has the revolutionary era ended? Has the state era begun?

['Arafat] The revolution will go on until an independent Palestinian state is established with Jerusalem as its capital. Our people will remain alert until doomsday; we will struggle on all fronts to prove that this land is Arab, Arab, and Arab; we will defend every particle of Palestinian soil; and we will wage the battle of building a Palestinian state as we waged the liberation and peace battle.

[Sharbal] Will progress on the Syrian and Lebanese tracks protect achievements on the Palestinian track, or will it make Israel less interested in understanding your demands?

['Arafat] As I have said, we are support achieving a just and comprehensive peace. Such a peace can be only achieved through all Arab tracks. Peace will stabilize the region and will benefit its peoples. Through their struggle and their victories, our people have established themselves on the political map of the region in their capacity as a basic component of the Middle East equation.

Progress in the peace process will be just and useful only if it cares for the interests and rights of all parties, particularly Palestinian interests and rights, which are the core of the conflict and the main basis of peace and stability in the Middle East. If peace is intended to be just and comprehensive, it should take place through all the Arab tracks.

'Arafat Said Slated To Visit Amman 'Next Week'

TA1201182695 Jerusalem AL-QUDS in Arabic 12 Jan 95 pp 1, 22

[FBIS Translated Text] Amman, QUDS PRESS—Sources at the Palestinian Embassy in Amman have said that Yasir 'Arafat, chairman of the Palestinian Authority, will visit Jordan within the next few days. During this visit he will meet with King Husayn, the Jordanian monarch.

The same sources told QUDS PRESS that the visit is expected to take place in the middle of next week. The sources added that high- level consultations are under way between Jordanian and Palestinian officials to arrange the itinerary for the visit. The sources expect the Husayn-'Arafat meeting to deal with the issues of coordination and cooperation and Jordanian-Palestinian relations. It will also address outstanding problems.

'Fighters' in Lebanon To Be Moved to Self-Rule Areas

JN1201132895 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 12 Jan 95 p 1

[Report by Tawfiq 'Abid]

[FBIS Translated Text] Well informed Palestinian sources have said that landing vessels that belong to the French fleet will transport the first group of Palestinian revolution fighters in Lebanon to the self-rule areas of Gaza and Jericho. The sources said that 630 fighters will be transported directly from the port of Tyre to Gaza. However, they did not specify the sailing date.

The sources told AL-DUSTUR that the first group will only include fighters that can be classified under the article on those displaced in 1967. This will be followed by two groups of 1948 Palestinians, adding up to a total of 1,400 men.

The sources said that the competent Palestinian departments have received an initial approval from the Lebanese and Syrian Governments and that final arrangements in this regard will be on the agenda of the meetings Faruq Qaddumi, head of the PLO Political Department, will hold with Syrian and Lebanese officials.

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In statements over the telephone, Colonel 'Ali Muhammad Budaywi, Palestinian military attache in Jordan, said that he does not have any official information on this issue.

On another hand, the process of transporting the Palestinian revolution fighters to the self-rule area is being objected to strongly by three Palestinian factions in the Lebanese arena, not because of the right of all Palestinians to return, but because they believe that this will weaken them and undermine the justification behind their presence in Lebanon.

The sources told AL-DUSTUR that a large number of fighters who belong to these factions, especially those who were previously from the Fatah cadres, went to Sultan Abu-al-'Aynayn, the military official in southern Lebanon, and asked him to include their names in the lists of those who are returning to the homeland.

Al-Rujub Said Involved in Incident With IDF

TA1201183995 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1700 GMT 12 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Jibril al-Rujub, the head of the Palestinian security service in the West Bank, has been involved in another incident with IDF [Israel Defense Forces] soldiers.

Our correspondent Gil Litman, who witnessed the event, said that this morning an IDF jeep stopped al-Rujub's car in Jerusalem's Shu'fat neighborhood. Al-Rujub stepped out of the car and got into a loud argument with the soldiers. The Palestinian security chief then exchanged shoves with an IDF soldier who got out of the jeep. A traffic jam followed.

Residents of the neighborhood told our correspondent that the soldiers suspected that the passengers in al-Rujub's car were armed and were attempting to search them. That was when the argument broke out.

Our correspondent adds that Jibril al-Rujub initially denied he had been present at the scene but then admitted his involvement and asked that the matter not be publicized.

A senior source with the Palestinian Police said that the Israel Police deliberately humiliated the Palestinian security service official captured today in possession of a handgun at the Hizma checkpoint. The source told our correspondent Yoni Ben-Menahem that the policemen handcuffed the Palestinian officer and led him away in front of television cameras, in a manner unbefitting his status.

The source recalled that just one week ago, the Palestinian Police captured soldiers from an undercover IDF unit inside the autonomous area in the Gaza Strip. The source said that the soldiers were treated with respect and returned to Israel unharmed and with their weapons. The Palestinian source said that the behavior of the Israel Police in this matter undermined relations between the Palestinians and Israel.

A Border Police undercover unit this evening captured a fugitive armed with a handgun in the village of 'Illar in the Tulkarm District. The fugitive belongs to the Fatah Hawks and is suspected of murdering Palestinians suspected of cooperating with Israel.

Perry Visit Seen Supporting Israeli Nuclear Power

TA1101174195 Jerusalem AL-NAHAR in Arabic 10 Jan 95 pp 8, 7

[Editorial: "Perry's Tour Supports the Israeli Position"]

[FBIS Translated Text] U.S. Secretary of Defense William Perry's visit to Israel centered on ways of combating the proliferation of nuclear weapons in the Middle East. Evidence of this is the fact that the countries Perry is visiting during his tour—be it Israel, Pakistan, or India—are proceeding with the development of their nuclear programs. The reason he started his tour in Cairo is because of the disagreement between Egypt and Israel over the signing of the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty [NPT]. Egypt is insisting that Israel sign this treaty if it is indeed interested in stopping the nuclear arms race in the region.

The world is talking about the perils of the nuclear programs of Iran, North Korea, and Pakistan. Israel, however, is developing its nuclear program while refusing to allow any supervision or inspection of its nuclear facilities. One must bear in mind that in the early eighties, Israeli planes raided and destroyed Iraq's nuclear installations. Moreover, today Israel is threatening to strike at the nuclear reactors in Iran and Pakistan. The Israeli position is clear—namely, Israel aspires to become the only country in the region with nuclear capability. It wants to deprive other regional countries of advanced technology and prevent any country other than itself from developing or possessing nuclear weapons. Such Israeli superiority will mean Israeli military domination and hegemony over the region. This will also obliterate any strategic parity with Israel. Moreover, such a development will give Israel nuclear and military influence, which will be reflected in its economic dominance and ability to penetrate the region politically, especially after it has become accepted in the Middle East and recognized—implicitly or directly—by most of the region's countries.

During his visit to Israel, Perry stated that the United States supports the Hebrew state's qualitative strategic edge. Does this mean that the United States clearly supports Israel's nuclear policy? And how does this reconcile with Washington's policy of nuclear arms control in the world? Or does the United States believe that

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Israel's nuclear strength should serve as its shield in conducting the peace process in the region and the building of a new Middle East?

Ultimately, is this not Israel's position? These are puzzling questions without answers, but it is clear that the European and U.S. positions are in accord on any restructuring of strategic balances in the region being based on Israel's nuclear power as an element of stability which enhances Israel's security and serves the United States and Europe. In other words, by entering the international nuclear club and by its nuclear superiority, Israel is underscoring the U.S. Administration's pledge, made by President Bill Clinton himself, to ensure its military and strategic edge.

Apparently, Washington and Tel Aviv believe this nuclear superiority will force the Arab parties to enter into negotiations and sign unpalatable peace agreements because Israel is the stronger party. Thus, peace will be established and enmity removed between Israel and the Arabs! This is absurd logic, because it will complicate the region's problems and keep the region in a state of tension. Peace in the region can only be achieved by making it free of weapons of mass destruction and by signing the NPT. If, however, Israel's nuclear strength is maintained, the region's countries will be forced to find sources for arms in order to achieve parity with Israel. This will keep the region in the cycle of conflicts and wars.

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Algeria

FLN Says Dialogue Impossible While Papers Banned

MM1101125195 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 10 Jan 95 p 4

[FBIS Translated Text] London, AL-HAYAH—The Algerian National Liberation Front [FLN] distributed the day before yesterday the text of a letter sent last month to President Liamine Zeroual by its secretary general, Abdelhamid Mehri, in which he spoke about the harassment to which the FLN is subjected. It is now known why it took such a long time to reveal the letter.

In his letter Mehri pointed out that the FLN has been on the receiving end of "the bigger share" of the measures taken by the authorities to "reduce the margin of the freedom of expression." He said in this context that the authorities "stripped" the FLN of the two dailies AL-MUJAHID and AL-SHA'B after halting the election process in 1992. And last year they legally prosecuted the director of AL-MUJAHID AL-USBU'I and suspended the publication of AL-HIWAR. He went on to say that the media services, which are financed and supervised by the state, "have intensified the campaign they began to launch against the FLN party some years, and the insults and accusations are now heaped on the party without any professional or moral boundaries."

He asked Zeroual: "How can we hold a dialogue with the people, as you requested from the parties, while you continue to strip us of the means of expression every time we express our opinion of the country's affairs and the bloody tragedy we are experiencing? How can we conduct a dialogue while those in charge of the party's official newspapers are exposed to imprisonment and trial for reasons sound logic does not accept."

Mehri said: "We bitterly feel that the FLN party's national line—which rejects the suspension of the democratic process and the policy of armed confrontation among Algerians and calls for a serious dialogue among all the people of this homeland to extricate the country from the crisis—is targeted by the authorities."

Opposition Groups Reach Accord in Rome

MM1201154795 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 11 Jan 95 pp 1, 4

[Report by Qusayy Salih al-Darwish: "Anouar Haddam Deviates From Madani and Belhadj Message. Rome Meeting on Algeria Urges Regime To Turn Over New Leaf"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Rome—The leaders of the Algerian parties attending the Rome conference have continued their meetings for a third day after being joined by the representative of the Executive Committee of the Islamic Salvation Front [FIS] abroad. They have continued to shroud their discussions in secrecy and have left their seclusion only for a brief meeting with the press at noon yesterday. An explosive situation almost developed when Anouar Haddam surprised the Algerian leaders and the press with a categorical declaration of support for armed action, a matter which prompted Ali Yayha Abdelnour, the official spokesman of the conference, to explain that Anouar Haddam's statement did not commit the participants, who would be collectively committed to the provisions of the agreement they would sign.

Anouar Haddam's sensational action surprised and was condemned by many, including FIS sympathizers, particularly as the directive message signed by Abbassi Madani and Ali Belhadj did not contain any reference to armed action. The draft agreement also does not include support for armed action and the armed groups. Haddam perhaps wanted to put on record a personal position which he could sell to the Armed Group, albeit at the FIS's expense.

The text of the agreement is expected to be sent to Bonn by personal envoy for Rabeh Kebir to sign first, followed by Haddam's signature, after the FIS leaders at home are briefed on it.

The drafting of the text of the agreement, which officials of the main Algerian parties have been discussing for the past three days in the Italian capital, is expected to be completed today. Despite the secrecy and silence maintained by the participants about the course and details of the discussions, there is a common belief that everyone definitely wants such an agreement. As Hocine Ait Ahmed explained to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT before, the agreement is not directed against the regime but rather aimed in its direction in the sense that the parties which will sign it want the regime to turn over a blank new leaf on the basis of dialogue and a search for a peaceful negotiated solution based on democracy and national sovereignty. The agreement calls on the regime to demonstrate goodwill in the interest of serious negotiations by taking a series of measures that would ease the tension, open up the polital arena, and stop the violence. The agreement will condemn all kinds and sources of violence and repression and call for the legal reinstatement of FIS and for its participation in the dialogue. It will also urge the Algerian Army to participate directly in the dialogue and in the management of the transitional period, but it also will urge it to commit itself to withdrawal from political life and political action as soon as elections are held. A number of complex issues are expected to be discussed today, including the issue of the constitution, respect for the constitution, and reconsideration of the constitution, as well as specific and practical proposals related to an election timetable.

The agreement will also emphasize general fundamental principles, including the Algerian people's sovereignty, meaning that a government can only come about by popular choice. It will also emphasize the need to uphold

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the principle of consultation and respect for minority rights and for general and individual human rights.

There can be no doubt that the message addressed by Abbassi Madani and Ali Belhadj to the FIS representatives opened the way to this agreement, which is considered to be an extremely important new factor in the Algerian crisis. This is the first time the FIS has agreed to commit itself to an agreement of this kind with representatives of parties which, until recently, it regarded as its ideological opposites. This is also the first time that FIS leaders Abbassi Madani and Ali Belhadj have agreed with each other without any doubt on a draft comprehensive political and clear solution for everyone. The meeting between the National Liberation Front [FLN] leaders, especially Abdelhamid Mehri, and FIS leaders contributed considerably to that tangible development and its transformation into effective action. In this connection, and contrary to what had been announced, Abdelhamid Mehri visited Abbassi Madani and Ali Belhadj twice, not once—once alone and another time with the members of the FLN Political Bureau.

The Algerian leaders participating in the second Rome meeting believe that this agreement, which will be announced Thursday [12 January] afternoon, could break the total Algerian political deadlock. The agreement could provide a clear basis for dialogue and could prove to the regime or any interested member of the regime that dialogue is possible and that a gradual political solution is possible. The text of the agreement will focus on the point of a gradual process to encourage the regime to shed its fears.

The conferees will consider ways of conveying the agreement to the Algerian officials and conveying and explaining it to the major world capitals and public opinion.

The importance of the agreement lies not only in the fact that it expresses the goodwill of the opposition parties and their serious interest in dialogue but also in the fact that it presents a clear alternative for local and international public opinion after the protracted ambiguity and lack of specifics regarding dialogue. It would be very difficult for the regime to ignore an agreement which may be supported individually or collectively by many world capitals.

Security Kills 13 'Terrorists' in Algiers, Msila

LD1201143995 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 12 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] A statement issued by the security services today says that its forces yesterday eliminated seven terrorists consisting of an armed group which was active in the Les Villers area in Hussein Dey district of Algiers. [passage omitted]

During this operation, the security forces recovered six automatic pistols, three of which belonged to members of the security forces previously assassinated in the same area. They also retrieved a quantity of medicine and equipment. [passage omitted]

In another development, the security services said that its forces have been able to eliminate six terrorists in the region of the Rouak area in Msila, including the emir of Msila named Mihoubi Hachemi alias Hamza who was wanted for his involvement in several acts of terrorism.

Foreign Ministry on Joining Nonproliferation Treaty

LD1201150595 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 12 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] A Foreign Ministry statement issued today says that Algeria today began laying down the instruments of joining the nuclear arms nonproliferation treaty simultaneously in London, Moscow, and Washington, the capitals of the states which laid down this treaty. The statement says that, with this action which comes in the framework of a harmonious position toward a range of disarmament and arms nonproliferation issues, Algeria affirms its commitment to the peaceful use of nuclear energy, and its will to further contribute to the various aspects of disarmament in general.

The statement further says that Algeria remains convinced of the need for all states to join the nuclear arms nonproliferation treaty, and to open their nuclear installations for the guaranteess [as heard] of the International Atomic Energy Agency.

Berber Language-Rights Demonstration Blocked

LD1201202795 Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 12 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Participants in the march which had been called for by the Berber Cultural Movement [MBC] today in Algiers to demand official recognition of the Tamazight language were dispersed. About 500 MBC activists gathered this morning at the 1st May Square in preparation for the march, which was called for by the movement despite the authorities' refusal to grant a permit. They were raising banners calling for official recognition of Tamazight and its inclusion in education curricula.

Egypt

Jordanian Foreign Minister al-Kabariti Visits

Meets Mubarak

JN1201131695 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1000 GMT 12 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] His Excellency President Muhammad Husni Mubarak, president of the Arab

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Republic of Egypt, received in the presidential headquarters in Cairo this morning Jordan's Foreign Minister 'Abd-al-Karim al-Kabariti, who arrived in Cairo on a short visit to Egypt.

During the meeting, which was attended by Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa and Jordanian Ambassador in Cairo Nayif al-Qadi, the two sides discussed bilateral issues, developments in the Arab and international arenas, and the peace process in the region.

Following the meeting, Mr. al-Kabariti and Dr. 'Amr Musa began official talks.

Delivers Message, Speaks

NC1201130795 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1100 GMT 12 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 12 Jan (MENA)—President Muhammad Husni Mubarak today received a message from King Husayn of Jordan delivered by Jordanian Foreign Minister 'Abd-al-Karim al-Kabariti, who today started a visit to Egypt.

This statement was made by Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa. He said that President Mubarak handed over a message of reply to be delivered to the Jordanian monarch.

He clarified that President Mubarak's meeting with the Jordanian foreign minister and the joint talks to take place later focus on Egyptian-Jordanian relations, the situation in the Arab world, the peace process, and the various circumstances this process is experiencing.

Jordanian Foreign Minister 'Abd-al-Karim al-Kabariti described his meeting with President Husni Mubarak as cordial and warm. He pointed out that agreement was reached to strengthen Jordanian- Egyptian contacts.

The Jordanian minister expressed his hope that the Egyptian and Jordanian sides succeed in realizing their goals during this visit. He affirmed Egypt's vanguard role in the Arab region.

On the upcoming meeting between King Husayn and Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat, the Jordanian foreign minister clarified that the two sides are discussing many topics.

He expressed his hope that the meeting would take place as soon as possible to strengthen Jordanian-Palestinian relations in a way that preserves the rights and interests of the two people.

He said that the Jordanian-Palestinian talks will include political and economic issues as well as Jordanian custodianship over Jerusalem. He expressed the hope that all of this would take place within a framework of fraternal consultation and dialogue.

Regarding reports about a Jordanian proposal on forming a confederacy between Jordan, Palestine, and Israel, the Jordanian foreign minister affirmed that there is no such Jordanian proposal. He said he heard something about this through the media and Palestinian sources. The Jordanian option is an Arab option. He said: We hope Arab confederacies will be formed so that we can always support each Arab country.

Regarding Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin's statements on the possibility that ultimately a comprehensive war might break out in the region, 'Abd-al-Karim al-Kabariti said: These statements do not go along with the general atmosphere prevailing in the region since the Jordanian-Israeli peace agreement. He expressed the hope that the Israeli prime minister is not serious in his statements. Otherwise, we would be facing a real problem in the region.

On whether the meetings of the Higher Jordanian-Egyptian Committee were discussed, the Jordanian foreign minister said the issue was discussed and President Mubarak issued his directives so that the committee would convene at a date agreed upon by the prime ministers of the two countries.

In this regard Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa affirmed that a decision has been made to convene the joint committee between Egypt and Jordan very soon, at a date to be set immediately. This might be at the beginning or end of February—the circumstances during the holy month of Ramadan must be considered—while coordination between the ambassadors of the two countries continues. He said this decision was reached during a meeting between Prime Minister 'Atif Sidqi and the Jordanian foreign minister.

Views Jerusalem Issue, Arab Unity

NC1201144095 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1145 GMT 12 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 12 Jan (MENA)—This morning Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa held a round of talks with Jordanian Foreign Minister 'Abd-al-Karim al-Kabariti, who arrived in Cairo on a quick visit this morning.

The Jordanian minister stated that they discussed current Arab issues, pointing out that Jordanian and Egyptian viewpoints on these matters are identical.

Mr. al-Kabariti said the next few days will witness tangible positive developments in Egyptian-Jordanian coordination and cooperation.

In viewing Jordanian religious custodianship over Jerusalem and its effect on political custodianship, the Jordanian foreign minister said: We Jordanians, refuse to quibble over the concept of Palestinian Arab sovereignty over the Jerusalem area; we consider Jerusalem an indivisible part of Resolution 242.

The issue of religious custodianship is a matter that has been decided on by the Jordanians: Jerusalem is placed in the trust of the Jordanians until the Palestinian Authority manages to impose its sovereignty and exercise it over

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Jerusalem so that we can return it to them. And that is not all: The Jordanian side will be committed to serve the holy places in any way the Palestinians see fit at any time.

The Jordanian foreign minister said that there is no problem regarding Jerusalem. He confirmed that the Jordanian and Egyptian positions are identical.

On Yitzhaq Rabin's statements that Jerusalem is the eternal capital of Israel, Mr. 'Abd-al-Karim al-Kabariti said Jordan rejects any measure or any plan in which the objective is to change the nature and identity of Jerusalem.

He said that Jordan insists Jerusalem is Palestinian and Arab. We are attempting to move the negotiations forward so that the Arab nation will get what it aspires to and the Palestinians will regain Arab Jerusalem.

On the tripartite summit in Alexandria, the Jordanian foreign minister said that Mr. 'Amr Musa explained in detail the results of that summit.

He confirmed that the Egyptian policy is to attempt to clear the Arab atmosphere. The mere recital of slogans such as "frankness before reconciliation" will not accomplish anything without a mechanism for action through which we can emerge from the swamp of inter-Arab differences to the arenas of real challenge. The real challenge is to take an Arab stance through which we can realize Arab interests and preserve Arab rights.

Departs Cairo

NC1201181695 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1755 GMT 12 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 12 Jan (MENA)—Jordanian Foreign Minister 'Abd-al-Karim al-Kabariti has left Cairo after a brief visit of several hours during which he met with President Husni Mubarak and Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa.

Musa and Jordanian Embassy staff saw al-Kabariti off at the airport.

Paper Praises Results of Perry's Visit, Statements

NC1201223295 Cairo AL-AHRAM AL-MASA'I in Arabic 8 Jan 95 p 2

[Editorial: "Important American Assertions"]

[FBIS Translated Text] U.S. Defense Secretary William Perry's visit to Egypt and his talks yesterday with President Husni Mubarak and military leaders, and his statements after the talks, clarified many issues that the Egyptian public has been watching with strong interest.

Perhaps we remember that President Mubarak has repeatedly stated lately that American-Egyptian relations are good, and that there is no crisis between the two countries at the official level. He said occasional criticism or even campaigns against Egypt by the American press are nothing more than press affairs, and that the free Egyptian press reacts to this criticism out of its sense of national responsibility.

William Perry's statements yesterday, with all the American appreciation they entailed for Egypt, its leadership, and its role in achieving stability in the Middle East and the world, served as a confirmation by the U.S. Administration, through the defense secretary, of the strong relations between Egypt and the United States. Perry said his talks with President Mubarak underscored the strong relations between the two countries, and provided a chance to thank Egypt for the leading role it plays.

However, the Egyptian public needed to hear, through an official of William Perry's caliber, U.S. views on some other issues of concern to the region, especially after the media clamor between the two countries and reports that those issues were among the reasons for that media clamor. Foremost among those issues are two:

First, American aid to Egypt. We know that Egypt has planned its affairs based on the fact that this aid will not continue for ever. However, the need for this aid to continue during the current years of economic transformation in Egypt is obvious.

William Perry announced yesterday that the U.S. Administration is determined not to reduce the aid scheduled for Egypt for the next two years. He said that President Clinton, in the budget presented to the Congress a few weeks ago, asked that the amount of aid to Egypt remain unchanged. Perry said that he and U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher are committed to defending this request before the Congress.

Second, Israel's signing of the new Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty as a condition for Egypt's signing of it. This is meant to serve as the first step for discussions to implement President Mubarak's call for turning the Middle East into a nuclear-free zone.

Here, Perry was anxious to explain that the United States is interested in preventing the spread of nuclear arms everywhere, not only in the Middle East, and said he will stress the same position when he visits Israel today. This means that the United States supports the signing of the treaty by both Egypt and Israel, which is the same position adopted by Egypt and rejected by Israel.

All this, of course, reflects a positive American position toward relations with Egypt and toward some of the most important issues with which Egypt is currently preoccupied. We may add to this the balanced American evaluation of the tripartite Arab summit in Alexandria among Mubarak, Fahd, and al-Asad. Perry said the summit stressed Egypt's continued efforts to advance the peace process.

After all this, Perry stressed that Egypt is the source of stability and moderation in the Middle East, that it is

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working for peace not only in this region but in the entire world, and that its contribution to this end is important.

Undoubtedly, the Egyptian public highly appreciates all these positive positions expressed by the U.S. defense secretary. It hopes that President Clinton's administration will succeed in using its influence to stop attempts by some extremist circles inside and outside the current Congress to harm the strategic relations between Washington and Cairo. The American Administration's success in this mission will certainly render an additional service to peace and stability in the Middle East and the world.

U.S. Defense Secretary's Visit Labeled 'Failure'

NC1201191095 Cairo AL-'ARABI in Arabic 9 Jan 95 pp 1, 13

[Article by Khalid Salah and 'Abd-a'-Fattah 'Abd-al-Mun'im]

[FBIS Translated Text] Why does Egypt appear at the top the list of nations that receive military and civilian aid from the United States, second only to Israel?

The answer was given by U.S. Ambassador in Cairo Edward Walker in a private meeting before the arrival in Cairo of U.S. Defense Secretary William Perry.

Had it not been for Egypt, the ambassador explained, the United States would not have so efficiently reached the Gulf during the Iraqi-Kuwaiti crisis, nor would it have reached Somalia and Rwanda later." [no opening quotation marks as published]

This explains the $1.3 billion aid which Egypt receives from the United States every year, aid that the U.S. Congress defends by citing Egypt's strategic role in the region and its importance in achieving regional stability.

The overall military relations between the two countries were on the table at the discussions that U.S. Defense Secretary Perry held in Egypt. He left Cairo yesterday, Sunday, after a two-day visit during which he met with President Husni Mubarak and Defense Minister Marshal Husayn Tantawi.

The talks dealt with main issues, on which both sides concentrated. While Egypt's re-signing of the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty [NNT], scheduled for March, was the main topic on the agenda of the American secretary, the Egyptian side had its own demands, notably obtaining a license to export part of the Egyptian production of the American M1A1 tank. Egypt also wanted to know the fate of the 160 F-16 planes it had ordered from the United States.

According to available information on the results of talks on these three topics, it is more accurate to describe these results as a failure. Concerning the main U.S. Administration request conveyed through Perry—that Egypt renew its signing of the NNT—all indications are that Perry's logic failed to change Egypt's position, which links the signing of the NNT with a similar Israeli signing to ensure the removal of Israel's nuclear arsenal.

Perry explained his logic in a lecture he delivered yesterday morning (Sunday) to the American Chamber of Commerce in Cairo. He said: "The NNT does not provide sufficient guarantees for the nonproliferation of this weapon, but constitutes an important base on which programs to reduce the danger of nuclear proliferation can be built." He said he urged President Mubarak to renew Egypt's signing of the treaty, adding that he will say "the same thing to Rabin in Israel today (Sunday)," and pointing out that the danger of this weapon is better embodied if we imagine that it may fall in the hands of "a reckless state," or "a terrorist!"

The sensational irony here is that less than a week earlier, Shim'on Peres, the foreign minister of the Israeli enemy, discussed the same topic (nuclear arms) at the same place where the U.S. Secretary delivered his lecture. Peres said: If we have in the region people like Saddam Husayn, Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, and (Iranian President) Hashemi-Rafsanjani, and they are frightened by the reported Israeli nuclear weapons, then why should we remove their fear, which represents a deterrent for them!

Concerning the Egyptian request that a license be given to Egypt to export surplus production of the U.S. M1A1 tanks, the U.S. secretary stressed in his statement before the American Chamber of Commerce that no specific results were reached. He said: "This subject will be discussed by technical committees, and a decision (by the U.S. Administration) will be made after seeing the reports of these committees!"

As regards the F-16 aircraft Egypt is willing to buy, the U.S. secretary avoided answering any questions on the topic, whether at the news conference he held Saturday [7 January] after his meeting with President Husni Mubarak or in the statements he made at the airport yesterday (Sunday) before leaving for Tel Aviv. This indicates that the U.S. Administration will use this deal as one of the pressure cards it is willing to keep until the end of the round in its differences with Egypt over the nuclear issue!

But despite this apparent failure, the U.S. Defense Secretary's visit still showed features of the "special relationship" which both Washington and the Egyptian Government are eager to maintain. Perry expressed this fact when he said before leaving Cairo that the visit supported military cooperation between Egypt and the United States, a cooperation that is extremely successful.

Cairo, for its part, gave the visit enough attention, and surrounded it with all features of cordiality, so much so that the two ministers, Perry and Tantawi, attended a special concert by Rida team two days ago.

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Perry's Remarks on Nuclear Weapons Criticized

NC1301112395 Cairo AL-WAFD in Arabic 10 Jan 95 p 5

[Article by 'Umar 'Abd-al-Raziq: "Perry: The Egg and the Stone"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Some have ignored the main goal of U.S. Defense Secretary William Perry's visit to the region and focused instead on the complimentary remarks that Perry made here and there about aid, friendship, and the peace train! The U.S. secretary revealed his real intentions as soon as his feet touched the ground in Israel. He started to caution the regional countries against possession of nuclear weapons, because they are unethical and forbidden [haram]! Though in the lion's den, Perry turned a bind eye to the hundreds of nuclear warheads that Israel possesses and instead warned Iran against developing its nuclear capabilities.

Thus, Perry did not notice the "straw" in Israel's eye but saw the "mote" in Iran's eye. Is this what U.S. credibility is all about? Of course not. The U.S. Defense Secretary did not and will not talk about Israel's extremely humane bombs because he is a juggler who can balance an egg and a stone. In Cairo he talked about the risks of nuclear weapons in general and the need to sign the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty, while in Tel Aviv he talked about guarantees of security and the superiority of beloved Israel, which has nothing to do with any nuclear problems. He even discussed with Rabin his concerns about the possession of weapons similar to Israel's weapons by other states, "Arab or Islamic."

Thus, it is not mere coincidence that the NEW YORK TIMES has published Israel's threats to hit the Iranian nuclear reactors, even though they are used for civilian purposes. The report published by the newspaper, which is predominantly pro-Jewish, has paved the way for Perry's explicit threats against Tehran. We may differ with the Iranian policy, but is it not the right of any Islamic or Arab state to possess weapons similar to those owned by Israel?

N.B.: A country named Iraq once upon a time had a nuclear program, but it was destroyed by Israeli planes after they had violated Arab airspace. Since that day, the Arab states have realized the punishment that Israel would mete out against them should they commit the same sin!

AL-AHRAM Says Arabs Must Seek Nuclear Deterrent

NC1301074195 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0605 GMT 13 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 13 Jan (MENA)—The newspaper AL-AHRAM stresses that there is near unanimity on the need for all countries in the Middle East, without exception, to sign the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty. The paper notes that failure by any of these countries to sign the treaty on grounds of security, would be adequate justification for the remaining countries not to sign the treaty.

In today's commentary, AL-AHRAM points out that those concerned with the security and stability of the Middle East must realize that it is impossible for the Arabs to sign the treaty now that it has been proved to them that Israel possesses a huge nuclear arsenal that threatens stability in the region. The paper notes that everybody is now aware that Israel's refusal to sign the treaty is the main reason behind the Arab states' refusal to sign it, particularly once they ascertained that Israel possesses a nuclear deterrent.

In this light, the paper adds, there is no longer any choice for the Arab states but to seek their own nuclear deterrent to achieve a balance in the region, something which we are still trying to avoid in order to turn the entire region into a zone free of weapons of mass destruction.

Police Kill 3 'Terrorist Elements' in al-Minya

NC1301070595 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2305 GMT 12 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 12 Jan (MENA)—Three terrorist elements were killed this evening in (?Markaz Matay) in the Upper Egyptian Governorate of al-Minya during campaigns conducted by security teams pursuing fugitive elements. Information received by security agencies confirmed that some elements were hiding in hamlets in the [word indistinct]. When the security forces tried to chase them they came under fire [words indistinct].

Attack on Train Wounds 6 in Qina Governorate

NC1301071795 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2350 GMT 12 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Upper Egypt, 12 Jan (MENA)—Unknown assailants opened fire at random this evening on a train from Aswan to Cairo at the village of al-'Ashiyah, Markaz Qus, Qina Governorate, slightly wounding [words indistinct], including two Argentine tourists. The assailants fired their weapons from a distance.

Leading security, detective, and criminal laboratory officials from Qina arrived at the scene for an inspection. Police agencies are still trying to find the assailants. The prosecutor has been notified to begin an investigation.

A responsible security source stated that tonight's shooting at a sleeper train from Luxor to Cairo as it passed al-'Ashiyah village in Qus wounded Muhammad Kamal Amin, 'Adil 'Abbas 'Abd-al-Latif, Sabri Mustafa Abu-al-Majd, and Muhammad 'Uthman Mahmud. Also wounded were Emilia Sharomarka and Norma Chrisia [names as transliterated], both from Argentina. The wounded have been taken to Qina General Hospital to receive first aid.

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Sudan

Abu-Salih: Eritrea Not Qualified To Mediate

EA1201205195 Omdurman Republic of Sudan Radio Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 12 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Foreign Minister Husayn Sulayman Abu-Salih today in his office met his excellency the U.S. ambassador to Khartoum in regard to the Intergovernmental Authority on Drought and Development [IGADD] initiative.

They discussed the peace process within the framework of the IGADD initiative. Dr. Abu-Salih stressed that Sudan rejected IGADD's proposal to appoint an international observer or any move to internationalize the southern problem. His excellency said that the IGADD groups' role was confined to mediation which should be completely neutral.

He stressed that Eritrea was no longer qualified to mediate, especially following its recent hostile stance against Sudan.

Foreign Minister Welcomes New British Envoy

EA1201200495 Omdurman Republic of Sudan Radio Network in Arabic 1500 GMT 12 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Foreign Minister Husayn Sulayman Abu-Salih has announced that Sudan appreciated the British initiative of appointing a new British ambassador to Khartoum.

In a statement to the radio today, his excellency said Sudan would perform its role of nominating its ambassador as soon as possible so as to normalize relations between the two countries.

He said the new British ambassador worked in Sudan during the 1970's and expressed the hope that relations between the two countries would witness the progress hoped for in the light of these development. Meanwhile, Dr. Abu-Salih said Sudan has not drafted a letter to the Intergovernmental Authority on Drought and Development [IGADD] regarding its decision to reject the appointment of UN observer for the peace talks. Pointing out that Sudan found it appropriate to issue a statement to this effect through the media just as the IGADD states had done by not notifying Sudan formally of this step.

Egyptian Foreign Minister Calls For Better Ties

EA1201205595 Omdurman Republic of Sudan Radio Network in English 1800 GMT 12 Jan 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Egypt's foreign minister, 'Amr Musa, has asserted that Egypt is eager to establish good relations with the Sudan and that Egypt is working toward easing tensions between the two countries. He also added that his country will take whatever necessary [as heard] to strengthen bilateral relations and called on Sudan to work with Egypt toward this objective.

French Ambassador Seeks To Improve Trade Ties

EA1201160095 Omdurman Republic of Sudan Radio Network in Arabic 1300 GMT 12 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The minister of industry and commerce, Dr. Taj al-Sirr Mustafa, has announced Sudan's readiness to strengthen its economic and trade ties with France. In a meeting this morning with the French ambassador to Khartoum, his excellency stressed that the time had come for the door to be opened to let French companies and businessmen invest in Sudan. He referred to the general policy based on cooperation and mutual understanding and the programs which strengthened foreign investment in the country.

His excellency the ambassador announced that he was on a fact- finding mission aimed at presenting a clear view to French businessmen, so that they can take positive steps toward direct investment in Sudan and toward opening new avenues of trade and economic cooperation between the two countries.

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Bahrain

AFP: Authorities Free 150 Arrested in Clashes

NC1301112095 Paris AFP in English 1032 GMT 13 Jan 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Nicosia, Jan 13 (AFP)—Bahraini authorities have freed more than 150 demonstrators arrested during clashes in the Gulf state, the daily AL-HAYAH said Friday [13 January].

Quoting Bahraini government sources, the Arabic London-based daily said a total of 400 people were arrested in the violence which flared in the archipelago in early December.

It added that the situation was now "stable" and that clashes between hundreds of Shiite Moslems and security forces had "not interrupted" the government or trade.

The Committee for the Defence of Political Prisoners in Bahrain based in London has said 2,486 people had been arrested since the start of the violence which flared after the arrest of a leading Shiite cleric on December 5.

The opposition in exile has reported new troubles almost daily with protesters demanding the release of all those arrested and a restoration of parliament suspended in 1975.

The Islamic Front for the Liberation of Bahrain has said 15 people died in the violence in December, but the Sunni-led government has only acknowledged the death of one policeman.

Saudi Arabia

Fahd Discusses Arab, GCC Matters With Gulf Leaders

LD1201234695 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 2224 GMT 12 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Riyadh, 12 Dec—King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, the custodian of the two holy mosques, today had telephone contacts with his brothers their highnesses, Shaykh Zayid Bin-Sultan al-Nuhayyan, president of the State of the United Arab Emirates, Shaykh 'Isa Bin-Salman Al Khalifah, emir of the State of Bahrain and the Kuwait Emir Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Sabah.

During the telephone contacts the leaders reviewed the latest developments on the Arab and Gulf Arenas, as well as issues concerning the bolstering of the progress of the Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC].

Fahd Contacts Mubarak, al-Asad on Arab Developments

LD1301093695 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 2312 GMT 12 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Riyadh, 12 Jan—King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, custodian of the two holy mosques, today had two phone contacts with his brothers President Muhammad Husni Mubarak of the Arab Republic of Egypt and His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad of the Syrian Arab Republic.

These contacts come within the framework of constant consultations on the main political and security developments on the Arab and international arenas. They also included a review of the issues of common interest and of interest to the causes of the Arab and Muslim nations.

Yemen

High-Level Delegation To Visit Saudi Arabia 14 Jan

JN1201183795 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1700 GMT 12 Jan 95

[Report by Faysal Mukarram in Sanaa]

[FBIS Translated Text] Yemeni President Lieutenant General 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih today received a message from the U.S. Administration. The message was delivered by U.S. Ambassador in Sanaa David Newton. The Yemeni News Agency, which reported this, said the message deals with issues of interest to Yemeni-U.S. relations and the current developments in the region.

The U.S. message to the Yemeni president came in the wake of the latest developments in Yemeni-Saudi relations. Some observers here believe the message deals also with the recent developments in the unresolved border dispute between Yemen and Saudi Arabia, in light of assertions by Sanaa and Riyadh that the two countries are eager to solve border problems through peaceful means and brotherly dialogue.

Furthermore, informed sources in Sanaa have confirmed that a delegation led by Shaykh 'Abdallah Bin-Husayn al-Ahmar, speaker of the Yemeni House of Representatives, will visit Riyadh on Saturday [14 January] to discuss the latest developments in the bilateral relations and prepare for an upcoming summit meeting between Yemeni President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih and Saudi King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al- 'Aziz. The delegation also comprises Dr. 'Abd-al-Karim al-Iryani, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, and 'Abd-al-Qadir Bajammal, deputy prime minister and planning minister. The sources said the visit of the Yemeni delegation was originally scheduled for Wednesday but that it had been postponed.

Meanwhile, the Yemeni president issued a decree today appointing Dr. Muhammad Ahmad al-Kabab ambassador to Saudi Arabia as part of a group of new ambassadors who were appointed in several countries. The new Yemeni ambassador to Saudi Arabia took the Constitutional oath before President Salih immediately following the issuance of the decree.

Heavy Weapons, Saudi Aircraft Used in Border Clash

JN1301105295 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1005 GMT 13 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] [No dateline as received] [passage indistinct] The newspaper AL-THAWRI, which

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speaks for the Yemeni Socialist Party [YSP], has revealed that Saudi troops on Tuesday [10 January] hoisted the Saudi flag on Yemeni territory they captured.

In the 12 January issue distributed in Sanaa, the paper adds that Yemeni troops retaliated by launching a counteroffensive to recapture this territory and bring down the Saudi flag.

The paper indicates the Saudi and Yemeni sides used heavy weapons in the recent battle that killed several persons and wounded others on both sides. In this battle, the paper notes, Saudi aircraft raided Yemeni positions.

The paper further discloses that Yemeni Prime Minister 'Abd-al- 'Aziz 'Abd-al-Ghani initiated a telephone call to Saudi Minister of Defense and Aviation Sultan Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz. Nonetheless, the Saudi official demonstrated intransigence, the paper says.

Observers in Sanaa do not expect the peaceful means and rational approach being pursued by the Yemeni leadership to produce positive results that could contain the increasingly volatile situation being promoted by the Saudis, and this is making the situation go from bad to worse.

Yemeni House of Representatives Speaker Shaykh 'Abdallah Bin- Husayn al-Ahmar visited Saudi Arabia last month, and met with Saudi officials in the hope of finding a peaceful solution to the border dispute between the two countries.

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Outcome of UNSC Sanctions Review Session Reported

JN1301100595 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0907 GMT 13 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The United Nations, 13 Jan (INA)—News reports from New York have said that the UN Security Council [UNSC] failed to agree today on easing the oil embargo clamped on Iraq, despite a British stand that initially endorsed the issuance of a UNSC statement. But when Britain failed to reconcile the positions of France and Russia with the U.S. position, it endorsed the U.S. position.

In a statement to reporters after the consultations, Russian Ambassador to the United Nations Sergey Lavrov expressed his country's disappointment because the UNSC members failed to agree on easing the Iraq sanctions.

The Russian envoy added: We do not expect Iraq to implement all provisions within a two-month period. Nonetheless, the provisions regarding the lifting or easing of sanctions are clear. These provisions stipulate that the UNSC, inspired by its policies and principles, must encourage Iraq and respond favorably to its positive moves. We believe Iraq has gone a long way on that road. Therefore, Iraq's conduct must be encouraged by easing the sanctions first, and then lifting the embargo when all the articles pertaining to arms disarmament are implemented.

The Russian envoy went on to say: We have expressed this view during the consultations. Many delegations supported our view. Nonetheless, the other powers—"meaning, the United States"—do not want the UNSC to make a favorable response before Iraq complies with all UNSC resolutions. We believe that is an erroneous position that contravenes the spirit and letter of the relevant UNSC resolutions.

When queried about the implementation of Paragraph 22 of Resolution 687, Ambassador Lavrov said that the contacts that are currently under way between the Iraqi technical delegation and the UN Special Commission will help provide solutions to the problems regarding missing information.

The Russian UN envoy went on to say: We will see how the situation develops over the next two months. We believe that Iraq's policies and practices over the past two months have definitely been positive. Several delegations today expressed their satisfaction with the work being done by the three-way committee meeting in Geneva on the missing Kuwaitis.

When asked whether the Americans have political reasons that prompt them not to support a lifting of the oil embargo even if Iraq complies with the provisions enshrined in Paragraph 22, the Russian envoy said that those who have political reasons must vote on a draft resolution. Once this is done, we will see what happens next, he added.

Paper on U.S. 'Pretexts' To Prolong Blockade

JN1201162495 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1235 GMT 13 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 12 Jan (INA)—BABIL has said that those planning to prolong the blockade against Iraq will find it difficult to find a new pretext to be raised during the next UN Security Council session.

In an article under the headline "The Security Council's List of Pretexts Must Come to an End," the paper says that all that is taking place behind the scenes at the Security Council reveals a poorly-planned play.

The paper adds that the problem of Albright and those standing behind her is to find new justifications and pretexts to prolong the suffering of the children, elderly, and women in Iraq.

The paper stresses that the blockade imposed on Iraq and many world nations reveals a miserable U.S.-led aggressive tendency under the illusion of bringing the world under brutal domination.

BABIL says: To find a new excuse to justify the continued blockade against Iraq, Albright will undoubtedly be in need of more and more ridiculous lies, thus confirming the helplessness of the imperialist game against world nations.

The paper adds that Albright and those standing behind her are unaware of the fact that this issue can find a final solution only through man's ability to defy injustice and aggression, and that Iraq has realized that this battle can only be won through steadfastness, which provides the requirements for the final crossing.

The paper indicates that the upcoming stage, which is based on the experience of the past five years under the blockade, will prove that those exposed, ineffective plots that aim to prevent Iraq from continuing its civilized advancement are nothing more than small thorns that will inevitably be crushed under the confident Iraqi steps. The paper voices confidence that the blockade will reach a point which will lead to a shift in the stands of the international institution.

The paper adds that during the past years, Iraq has provided an amazing and immortal example in [illegible] injustice and aggression.

Concluding its article, BABIL says: The U.S. list of pretexts, fabrications, and lies has been rendered ineffective by the Iraqis' steadfastness and patience. Therefore, it will find nobody in the international community to believe a singe word. Our patience and jihad will be stronger and the blockade will be defeated.

Paper: U.S. Policy Based on 'Arrogance, Vanity'

JN1301103895 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0850 GMT 13 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 13 Jan (INA)—The newspaper AL-THAWRAH has said U.S. policy is based

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on arrogance, vanity, and contempt of and disregard for values and legal and moral norms. In an article today, the paper, organ of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, said "U.S. policy relies on baseless allegations, lies, and false accusations against others." The paper added that "recent allegations by Madeleine Albright, the U.S. UN representative, fit this description."

The paper said: The U.S. representative's allegations that Iraq has military and civilian equipment transferred from Kuwait is a low and fragile claim because it was made only two days before the UN Security Council meeting to discuss the lifting of the blockade on Iraq. The paper pointed out that this clearly indicates the purpose of this timing.

AL-THAWRAH noted that "the issue of the Kuwaiti property which they claimed Iraq seized was decided a long time ago through UN channels, the dossier on this was closed, and no Kuwaiti claims have been recorded except within this new U.S. piece of theater."

The paper said this theatrical production shows the bankrupt U.S. position and its retreat vis-a-vis mounting international demands to lift the sanctions, and in view of the French move to open an interests office in Baghdad.

Concluding, AL-THAWRAH said the new U.S. allegations are a desperate attempt to sabotage the positive indicators admitted by Special Commission Chairman Rolf Ekeus in his latest report to the Security Council. The volume of U.S. fabrications and pretexts cannot undermine the large-scale positive change in the international desire, which will have to develop further into a more concrete form and demonstrate the credibility of the Security Council.

U.S. Report Shows 'Aggressive' Foreign Policy Trends

JN1201153895 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0840 GMT 12 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 12 Jan (INA)—The newspaper AL-QADISIYAH has said that Washington continues to shamelessly reveal its true aggressive foreign policy trends in harmony with the so-called new world order.

In an article today, the paper asserts that the specialized seminar sponsored by the U.S. State Department two weeks ago under the slogan "How To Manage World Chaos During the Next Century," practically expresses the belligerence and attempts to dominate the universe, as is advocated by the new world order, which emanates from the misconception that everyone is subservient to Washington, and their destinies and roles will be determined by Washington.

AL-QADISIYAH adds that the chaos which the United States seeks to spread throughout the world is based on known and clearly serious methods such as inciting wars, causing famines, aggravating local and regional conflicts, and using the United Nations in the same way it is using it now, in addition to the planned media and diplomatic efforts which are accompanied by economic and military pressures.

The paper points out that these aggressive trends were clearly revealed in a report issued by the U.S. National Security Council in mid-1994. The report was submitted by a committee comprising representatives from the Defense and State Departments and the Central Intelligence Agency. The paper cites a paragraph from the report as saying that the future will remain open to an event or events which may reverse the equations and the results reached by U.S. policy since the end of war against Iraq.

AL-QADISIYAH asserts that the U.S. Administrations create fear and illusions merely because some peoples and countries wish to lead a decent life and employ their resources for their own prosperity. The paper says Washington does not want this to happen, because those who plan U.S. policy imagine that it will conflict with the U.S. interests, which must be secured at the expense of all others' interests.

The paper emphasizes that this trend explains the fires spreading in many world areas, because the ugly American cannot live if others do not die, starve, or become poor.

Paper Assails UK Secretary's Remarks on Uranium Shells

JN1201131095 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0750 GMT 12 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 12 Jan (INA)—The newspaper AL-THAWRAH has expressed regret over the international community's silence on the crime in which the U.S. and British forces used radioactive uranium shells against Iraq, as was admitted by British Defense Secretary Malcolm Rifkind.

In an article today, the paper, mouthpiece of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, says that Rifkind's admission and defense of the most hideous mass annihilation operation clearly shows why London and Washington are continuing their reckless insistence on the blockade. This blockade represents the rancorous desire to annihilate our steadfast people.

The British defense secretary admitted that his country's forces used 88 uranium shells, which he claimed were depleted uranium shells, against the Iraqi forces and targets during the 30-state aggression.

AL-THAWRAH said that Rifkind's attempt to legalize this crime constituted impudence and absolute disregard of the international norms, charters, and conventions. It is noteworthy that the British secretary claimed that the Geneva conventions permitted the use of such radioactive shells. He said the U.S. forces used more of these

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shells against the Iraqi forces and targets than did the British forces. He also tried to discount the uranium shells which the British forces used against Iraq by saying that only 88 shells were fired. AL-THAWRAH, however, refutes this figure as inaccurate.

AL-THAWRAH also refutes Rifkind's lies and falsehoods about the legal justifications for using radioactive shells in wars. It says the Geneva conventions of 1949 did not overtly ban these shells because they were not manufactured or known at that time. Moreover, these conventions did not provide for the use of these shells for the same reason.

In this regard, the paper points out that such arms, which eliminate life, were addressed by Article 35 of the protocol which was attached to the Geneva agreements in 1977. This article states that the option for parties to any armed conflict to use any methods and means of fighting is not an absolute right without restrictions.

This protocol bans the use of weapons, shells, materials, and combat means which can cause unjustified injuries and pain. It also bans weapons whose use is meant, or is expected, to inflict grave, large-scale, and protracted damage on the natural environment. Moreover, the Hague agreement of 1907 bans the use of weapons that indiscriminately hit civilian and military targets. All these provisions apply to the U.S.-British crimes committed against the Iraqi forces, civilian targets, and population.

AL-THAWRAH notes the impact of the uranium shells on the U.S. and British forces themselves. It says that the British secretary's admission about using this weapon brings nothing new because the ailment called Iraq's curse, which affected large numbers of U.S. and British troops, has already revealed this crime earlier and exposed the hideous thing perpetrated against Iraq despite the blackout and disinformation which were pursued in order to hide the facts from the public opinion.

The paper expresses its confidence that what thousands of British and U.S. troops are suffering from is only a tragic result of breathing radioactive dust generated by the explosion of the uranium shells.

Talabani Accuses KDP of Cease-Fire Violations

NC1201181595 (Clandestine) Voice of the People of Kurdistan in Arabic 1520 GMT 12 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The People of Kurdistan television held a short interview with brother Jalal Talabani, secretary general of the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan [PUK] on the night of 12-13 January. During the interview, brother Talabani spoke frankly about the Kurdistan Democratic Party [KDP] forces' violation of the cease-fire agreement reached three days ago. Moreover, KDP leader Mas'ud Barzani has not implemented all the provisions of the agreement and has categorically refused to withdraw the KDP forces that have arrived from (Bajinan).

Barzani has thus spurned all efforts and initiatives to stop bloodshed, whether those undertaken by the PUK or those undertaken by friendly delegations and parties that have made commendable efforts in this regard. With this irresponsible stand, the KDP has again proved to the local and international public its disavowal of all agreements and promises. It has also proved its indifference to the consequences that might result from such unpatriotic stances—stances that correspond to the schemes and conspiracies of our Kurdish people's enemies, which aim to bury the democratic experiment in Kurdistan, cancel the role of the parliament and government of the Kurdistan region, return the Kurdish people to the fold of dictatorship, and impose the truncated self-rule which the KDP so eagerly desires.

During the interview, brother Talabani dealt with the role that the other Kurdish parties, the masses of our people, and the neutral factions must assume. This is because this sensitive and crucial issue does not only concern the PUK and KDP but concerns all parties and masses. Talabani also expressed the hope the masses and parties in Kurdistan will express their view and declare frankly which party continues to violate agreements and insist on bloodshed.

Dear listeners, herewith a list of the cease-fire violations by the KDP forces:
1. Only one hour after the declaration of a cease-fire on the night of 9—10 January, the KDP forces launched a broad attack on (Kefi Sakka) in (Gumistan) near Irbil to surprise the PUK peshmergas and occupy their post. However, the PUK forces waylaid these forces and foiled their attack.
2. KDP forces opened machine-gun and mortar fire on our peshmerga positions in (Jabal Tirin) in (Shuman Jalala).
3. KDP forces opened machine-gun and mortar fire on our forces in (Qasri) area.
4. KDP forces opened mortar fire on (Shawi) and (Kildi) near Irbil, wounding a number of women and children.
5. KDP forces continued to pillage the property of inhabitants in (Shuman), (Jawala) and (Diyala), looting over 168 houses.
6. KDP gunmen killed two PUK peshmerga fighters and mutilated their bodies in (Shuman).

As a result of these deliberate violations and the KDP's non-response to the PUK's repeated initiatives, including the cessation of media campaigns unilaterally adhered to by the PUK for three days, all the PUK's print, radio, and television media will resume publishing facts without slipping into lies and vituperations.

PUK's Talabani on Kurdish Infighting

MM1301092095 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 11 Jan 95 p 6

[Interview with PUK Secretary General Jalal Talabani by Zuhayr Qusaybati; place and date not given]

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[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [Qusaybati] After all the infighting between the two parties which have on numerous occasions concluded alliance agreements, do you believe that it is possible to restore trust between them?

[Talabani] The recent fighting has substantially weakened trust, which is almost nil at present. The Patriotic Union of Kurdistan [PUK] leadership no longer has confidence in the Kurdish Democratic Party's [KDP] written promises, let alone verbal promises. However the matter is not limited to trust. There is the issue of the Iraqi people as a whole, Arabs and Kurds. This issue requires that the infighting be brought to an end and the Kurdish scene prepared for the Iraqi opposition to work to end dictatorship and establish the democratic alternative, hence opening the door to resolving all Iraqi issues, including the Kurdish issue and the KDP-PUK dispute. It is very difficult to restore trust. However, I see on the horizon a possibility of establishing struggle relations among the Kurdistan Front, the Unified Iraqi National Congress [UINC], and the 17 Kurdish parties' alliance. [passage omitted]

[Qusaybati] How do you view a radical solution to the conditions in the Kurdish areas? Do you agree with the view that the two parties, the PUK and the KDP, are above the Kurdish government—which makes it a prisoner of their influence?

[Talabani] Conditions in the Kurdish areas can be resolved radically by spreading democracy, establishing the rule of law, abolishing the militias, and then holding free and honest elections under the supervision of international organizations interested in human rights and democracy, and also under the observation of the UINC, in order to elect a new Kurdish national assembly, that is after amending the law and revoking the 7-percent ratio, which denies the small parties the opportunity to enter the parliament, and after conducting a census and preparing lists of the voters and their nationalities. [passage omitted]

[Qusaybati] Mas'ud Barzani told AL-HAYAH that the PUK is continuing a "coup" attempt and resorting to "the use of force to change political balances through terror." And the KDP stresses that the PUK has taken possession of $14 million, the reserve of the central bank in Iraqi Kurdistan.

[Talabani] Regrettably, Barzani is forcing me to call him a liar. He—better than anyone—knows that the coup attempt allegations are baseless. It was the KDP which violated the agreements. Barzani in particular violated his own pledge when he deployed 2,000 fighters to occupy Shaqlawah.

Barzani himself rejected my repeated appeals to halt the occupation of Shaqlawah because the PUK interpreted it as a declaration of war. I forgave him for the second time for what happened to me personally when KDP forces—which included two battalions from Barzani's brigade—looted the contents of my house and office in Shaqlawah.

I appealed to Barzani to halt the fighting. He promised to do so but broke the promise. The majority of the Kurdish people and all the Kurdish parties are fully aware that it was the party led by Barzani which ignited the fires of sedition and the fratricide. He is rejecting our and the Kurdish parties' appeals to halt the fighting, despite his devastating failure on the battlefield, since he has not achieved any victory except in Shaqlawah, but he lost the two governorates of Karkuk and al-Sulaymaniyah and Irbil, the capital. Everyone knows that the KDP is imposing its rule in Bahdinan [as transliterated] through terror, murder, and revenge. Gangs belonging to it have killed an Assyrian deputy, a communist official, a member of the Toiling Classes Party, and the official in charge of the Marxist organization known as the Struggle Unit, in addition to numerous PUK cadres and scores of women and people. Everyone knows that the KDP persecutes the Christian brothers by seizing their land and expelling them from their villages by terrorizing them to force them to emigrate. All this has substantially harmed the Kurdish democratic process.

As for the story about the money, Barzani's allegation that the PUK took possession of $14 million from the central bank is absolutely untrue. In fact the (Kurdish) government used this money to pay the salaries of the employees, the peshmerga, security men and other government employees, and also to pay financial assistance to Kurdish parties, including the KDP, which received its share from this sum, although it stole government funds and revenues in Dahuk Governorate, including the revenues of the Ibrahim al-Khalil Customs. [passage omitted]

[Qusaybati] What about the "chronic" problem, Kurdish coleadership? Do you believe elections can settle the matter?

[Talabani] Leadership is a dictatorial concept unacceptable to the PUK. We believe in the democratic game: leader of the major and the minority in the parliament. As for the Nazi Hitler leadership "Fuehrer" theory, it is unacceptable to us. We have on numerous occasions demanded that this leadership be abolish and that the contemporary parliamentary logic be adopted. But the KDP leadership believes that Kurdish leadership can be inherited and move from father to son. We believe that the Kurdish people should choose their leaders from the parties and from among the various figures according to the standards of all times and according to services, struggle, and intellectual and moral values.

Coleadership is harmful and obstructing the democratic experiment. We believe that elections would settle the question on the basis of a leader for the parliamentary majority and a leader of the parliamentary minority. [passage omitted]

[Qusaybati] If the fighting erupts again on a large scale, is foreign intervention likely?

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[Talabani] Yes, foreign intervention is possible. Turkish intervention exists already, since certain Turkish quarters are providing money, arms, and supply material to the KDP leadership. They are also coordinating with it against the PUK for the sake of reconciliation with Baghdad and the fight against the Kurdish Workers' Party. And there is a possibility of overt Iraqi intervention. There is now covert Iraqi intervention against the PUK. But when our people understand all these facts, they will force hesitant Kurdish parties to join the fight against dictatorship and those collaborating with it.

[Qusaybati] Do you not fear that the infighting might affect the Western air protection of the Iraqi Kurds north of parallel 36?

[Talabani] We fear that the infighting might affect international sympathy with the Kurdish cause. Because when the Kurds fight one another, they will not be able to seek foreign aid. So infighting is a national Kurdish crime. We tried all means to evade it, and we are now making all efforts and seeking all mediations to halt it without any restrictions or conditions. Then we can engage in political dialogue and political and parliamentary struggle to resolve disputed issues, including the issue of plundering the people's money and challenging parliamentary legitimacy. The Western friends, especially the Americans, asked us in a very friendly manner characterized by utmost care for the interests of the Kurdish people and the Iraqi opposition to halt the fighting immediately. We agreed but the KDP leadership is insisting on avenging its defeat in Irbil before seriously accepting a cease-fire. [passage omitted]

PA's Coexistence 'With the Occupation' Assailed

JN0901183595 Baghdad AL-THAWRAH in Arabic 5 Jan 95 p 2

["Standpoint" column by Mu'ayyad 'Abd-al-Zahrah: "The Zionists and the Misunderstanding!"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Those who have agreed to coexist with the occupation, accepted its numerous conditions, and signed the so-called limited self-rule accord are now reaping the bitter, choking fruits of their unenviable situation. Dates for withdrawal and elections are not sacred, as Rabin put it; confiscating and Judaizing the territories will not halt; and individual and collective killings and arrests will not be reconsidered or given up.

Even the financial aid, which was promised to market and polish the accord and to repair some infrastructure in the educational, health, and social care areas, is arriving in very tiny quantities. It is also clear that this aid is linked to the ability of the so-called Palestinian Authority [PA] to curb or stop the intifadah activities. To the Zionists it would also be better if that authority condemns—and it has actually condemned several times—such activities in order to show its discipline and its understanding of the U. S. desire and the Zionist conditions.

Actual submission to these conditions was evident in Gaza and Jericho, where a series of clashes and measures led to large-scale fighting and to the killing of many sons of our Palestinian people. However, the Zionists maintained their firm position, exercised more pressure, and launched trial balloons in order to explore the PA's stand on plans to hold elections in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip and maintain and expand the settlements by bringing inmore Jewish immigrants. Moreover, the Zionist Knesset decided to ban all PLO political activities in Jerusalem. The killing by Zionist soldiers of four Palestinian policemen at the Erez checkpoint in Gaza Strip yesterday shows the extent of grudge and humiliation, which reached their climax when Shim'on Peres claimed that the incident was the result of a misunderstanding.

It seems that the misunderstanding that led to the Palestinian police station incident in the Gaza Strip is the same that causes Zionist cliques to rampage in Hebron, Nabulus, and the other West Bank cities, where bloody scenes occur every day. What can we say about settlements and Zionist insistence on maintaining them, about the election conditions, and about the decision to ban the PLO from exercising its political activity in Jerusalem? Have all these been the result of a political or misunderstanding, or is it the logic of tyrannical force or the policy of arrogance that has never changed?

Those who dream that the Zionists, regardless of their different parties, may allow our Palestinian people to establish their national authority and determine their fate amid Arab deterioration and the upset in the balance of power will be disappointed even though they rely on U.S. promises or the Middle East market.

Past and present Zionist practices and positions are the best evidence and lesson. This Zionist aggression and shamelessness should be stopped. Our Palestinian Arab people know this and continue their struggle and jihad.

Al-'Amarah Liquid Gas Plant Operational

JN1301073695 Baghdad AL-THAWRAH in Arabic 28 Dec 94 p 4

[FBIS Translated Text] Maysan—Technical teams from the Maysan Oilfields Department have completed the project to build a liquid gas plant in al-'Amarah. Department director Safih Lazim said the project was carried out by the self-help method at a cost of 12 million dinars. Located on 9,000 square meters, it includes two large

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tanks with a storage capacity of 20 tonnes each. Daily production is 8,000 gas cylinders. He said work is carried out in two shifts, each producing 4,000 cylinders.

Diyala Governorate Grants Citizenship Certificates

JN1301074095 Baghdad AL-THAWRAH in Arabic 28 Dec 94 p 4

[FBIS Translated Text] Diyala—The Department of Citizenship and Personal Status in Diyala Governorate this year granted 21,757 Iraqi citizenship certificates to qualified citizens for the first time. This is in addition to issuing 1,600 other certificates for those lost or destroyed. During the same period, the department issued 76,243 personal status identity cards for the first time and 19,914 cards for those lost or destroyed.

Company Drills 137 Oil, Water Wells in 1994

JN1301074595 Baghdad BABIL in Arabic 28 Dec 94 p 12

[FBIS Translated Text] The Iraqi Drilling Company drilled 137 wells in 1994. This is part of the company's plan to drill 33 wells, including the drilling of 10 development and exploration oil wells in the country's northern and southern oilfields, the repair of 17 wells in the northern and southern oilfields also, and the completion of 6 wells for injecting industrial water into the southern oilfields.

The company also drilled 103 wells for industrial water for the oil sector, including 70 wells in the Governorates of al-Anbar and al-Najaf in cooperation with the Ministry of Agriculture for the purpose of planting trees along highways and meeting the needs of the citizens for irrigation, reclamation of the western desert, and the supply of potable water.

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Rabin Refuses Comment on Timing Syria Accord

TA1201152295 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1300 GMT 12 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin said today that he does not want to deal with timetables concerning the negotiations with Syria, but procedural progress has been made by the very fact that the Israeli and Syrian chiefs of staff have met. The prime minister made the remark in a reply to a question from our correspondent Yoram Ro'e regarding the remarks by Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres that a peace accord with Syria is not expected in the next six months.

Mr. Rabin refused to address reports that the foreign minister held a meeting with a Syrian official, but said: We will hear about it later.

Rabin on Syria, Lebanon; Fighting Hizballah

TA1201181595 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1500 GMT 12 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin said today that if Lebanon disarms Hizballah and guarantees quiet in the security zone for six months, Israel would be able to sign a peace accord with it after a short three months of negotiations.

Rabin toured the security zone in south Lebanon today, accompanied by the commanders of the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] Northern Command and the SLA [South Lebanese Army]. Our correspondent Avi Lifshitz was there as well:

[Begin recording] [Lifshitz] I came here to laud the cooperation between the local forces in south Lebanon and the IDF, Rabin said this afternoon in Marj 'Uyun in the security zone. In general, we have a common goal—fighting the terrorism by Hizballah and the other rejectionist organizations. The prime minister reiterated his offer: prior to the signing of a peace accord with Lebanon, the Lebanese Army should deploy its forces north of the security zone, disarm Hizballah, and secure quiet in the security zone for six months. Then, it will be possible to sign a peace agreement with Lebanon in three months, Rabin said, stressing that two conditions must come first:

[Rabin] It is not definite that, due to the prolonged negotiations with Syria and in view of the openness we found in parts of the Arab world, there is an attempt to exert additional pressure on the security zone, the SLA, and the IDF. We, however, will have to deal with this, and we will not surrender.

[Lifshitz] These messages were relayed to Syria and Lebanon a year ago, the prime minister said, but I have not yet received a serious response to them. The reason, Rabin guessed, is the tough Syrian stand on the Lebanese issue.

[Rabin] One condition is that the SLA—just as it happened when the other militias were disarmed in Lebanon—will be incorporated in the Lebanese Army, that no harm will be done to the residents of south Lebanon, and that security arrangements be determined between Israel and Lebanon that would secure our northern border. [passage omitted] [end recording]

[A similar report by Alan Ben-'Ami on Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English at 1600 GMT on 12 January adds: "The prime minister held out no hope that hostilities in the region would be ending soon. Syria, he said was not allowing the Lebanese Government any freedom to negotiate peace arrangements with Israel, and the Lebanese were not moving to disarm Hizballah." In a recorded passage, Prime Minister Rabin says: "In the meetings between the military heads of the two armed forces of Syria and Israel, we dealt only with the question of security arrangements once peace treaty will be signed between Syria and Israel. The issue of Hizballah and Lebanon was not brought up in the meetings that have taken place so far."

[Ben-'Ami goes on to say: "It was too late, said Rabin, to tell Syria that there would be no negotiations unless the Syrians acted to stop Hizballah activities in south Lebanon. This should have been done before the Madrid conference." Rabin says: "Might be that the time was before going to the Madrid peace conference because the terror by Hizballah started then. If we put it today as a precondition for negotiations of peace, it will be seen that the present Government of Israel tries to find an excuse to bring a halt to the peace negotiations with Syria."]

2 Palestinian Security Heads Given Free Entry Passes

TA1201060795 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0500 GMT 12 Jan 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Two of the heads of the Palestinian security service in the Gaza Strip have recently received passes which enable them to enter Israel freely without security searches. The two are Muhammad Dahlan and Amin al-Hindi. Al-Hindi, who heads the Palestinian General Security Service in Gaza, was among those who planned the 1972 massacre of Israeli athletes in Munich.

A senior Israeli security official told a Qol Yisra'el reporter the two were given the passes as a result of cooperation with Israel's security service and their assistance in the fight against Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] terror.

Shin Bet Said Behind Permits

TA1301101095 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0600 GMT 13 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Major General Dani Rothschild says he did not give Muhammad Dahlan and Amin

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al-Hindi, the heads of the Palestinian Security Service, permits allowing them freedom of movement and, therefore, will not revoke them. A senior security source told our correspondent that the permits were given by the Shin Bet when the Shin Bet head was abroad and that Maj. Gen. Rothschild's signature on the permits was only a formality. The security source believes it will be very difficult for the Shin Bet to take the permits back from the two because of the fear that this will hurt the cooperation between the Shin Bet and the Palestinian security services.

Official on Delay of Envoy's Appointment to Jordan

TA1101170695 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 11 Jan 95 p 3

[Report by Arab affairs correspondent Smadar Peri]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The Jordanian Government has decided to delay its approval of Dr. Marwan al-Mu'ashshir's appointment as ambassador to Israel. YEDI'OT AHARONOT has learned that the order to delay the appointment was given by the top echelons in Amman in reaction to Israel's indecision about who is to be its first ambassador to Jordan.

A senior Israeli official who is in daily contact with Jordan told YEDI'OT AHARONOT last night: "We have run out of excuses. I no longer know how to explain to them why we do not yet have an ambassador in Amman."

This week will mark two months since the ratification of the peace agreement with Jordan, which stipulates that "embassies will open and ambassadors exchanged within a month."

The appointment of Israel's ambassador to Jordan is being delayed by disagreements between Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin and Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres, each of whom has his own candidate.

"This has turned into a bad joke," a Jordanian minister said yesterday, warning against "the negative impact of the Israel's blatant disrespect. Are Peres and Rabin really unable to resolve their conflict, hold a private meeting, and settle the affair?" he asked angrily. [passage omitted]

Ministry Paper Proposes 'Firm Steps' Against Egypt

TA1201125795 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 12 Jan 95 pp A1, A13

[Report by political correspondent Aluf Ben]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Israel should adopt a more critical approach toward Egypt, and if attempts to forge a dialogue fail, it should take firm steps against Egypt. This is the main recommendation in a position paper on Israeli-Egyptian relations drafted by the Foreign Ministry's Planning Department and submitted to Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres in recent days.

The paper says that if Egypt's negative conduct toward Israel persists, Israel should be able to take sharp retaliatory steps, including:

- Moving the bilateral peace talks with the Palestinians out of Cairo.
- Discontinuing the briefings delivered to Egyptian leaders by Israelis on peace process developments.
- Demanding that the Nile be included in the multilateral water talks. In the past, Israel agreed to an Egyptian request to exclude the Nile from the regional water resources discussed in the multilateral talks.
- Acting in Washington with regard to the human rights violations by Egypt and the latter's tightening relations with Libya, with a view to harming the U.S. aid to Egypt and the U.S.- Egyptian relationship.

Nonetheless, the position paper suggests that pressure on Egypt be augmented gradually. The impact of each Israeli step should be carefully assessed, and it should be resorted to only following an attempt to forge a high-level dialogue on the problems in Egyptian- Israeli relations. Such a dialogue would enable Israel to raise its grievances regarding Egypt's attempts to impede the peace process and the normalization between Israel and Arab countries.

The paper states that should the "Israeli-Egyptian dialogue" yield no results, Israel will act to inform the U.S. Administration and Congress of its discontent with the Egyptian policy.

The position paper analyzes the positive and negative Egyptian moves toward Israel and the peace process. It voices special concern about the Egyptian inclination to "toe the line" with Syria, demanding that Arab countries slow down the normalization process and make it contingent on a comprehensive Israeli withdrawal from the territories and on Israel's joining the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty [NPT].

The paper adds, however, that Israel and Egypt share several interests, most notably the Iranian problem and the concern about Islamic fundamentalism, as well as the desire to strengthen the stability in the region in cooperation with the United States. It further asserts that Israel should be interested in a political dialogue with Egypt, as it cannot ignore the considerable weight of the Egyptian influence on political processes in the Middle East.

So far, Peres has prevented the Foreign Ministry from discussing relations with Egypt and rejected various officials' recommendations of retaliatory action. A senior political element said yesterday that Israel will try to avoid an escalation with Egypt.

He added that the sharp statements made by Egyptian President Husni Mubarak and Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa in the past two days stem from their desire to

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display a firm stand in anticipation of the 17 April convention at which the NPT will be renewed.

Israel has recently received reports from Washington indicating that the United States is annoyed with the Egyptian attempts to enlist additional countries to mount opposition to the NPT's extension as long as it is not endorsed by Israel.

The United States opines that Egypt can take whatever action it sees fit, but that it must not try to undermine the international endeavor to curb nuclear proliferation. Furthermore, the United States is worried about the growing tension between Egypt and Israel over the nuclear issue and plans to take action to ease the tension. [passage omitted]

Military Option Against Iranian Nuclear Arms Seen

TA1201170595 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 12 Jan 95 p B1

[Commentary by Re'uven Pedatzur: "The Begin Doctrine Will Not Work"]

[FBIS Translated Text] If the remarks made by Major General 'Uzi Dayan constitute a declaration of the army's intent vis-a-vis Iran, there is reason to be concerned about the strategic perceptions of defense policymakers. It must be clear and understood that the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] cannot halt Iranian nuclear plans with military means.

The perception that was appropriate for the Iraqi nuclear reactor is not valid in the Iranian context. There are at least 10 nuclear facilities in Iran, located all over that large country. Whoever believes that they can all be destroyed in a military operation, seems to be declaring that he does not recognize the limitations of military force and is willing to regard it an appropriate solution to every problem.

Except for the operational difficulty of carrying out an operation against such a large number of targets more than 1,000 km away, there is also a lack of reliable intelligence information. There is doubt whether the Israeli intelligence community has enough information to plan a military operation. Suffices it to mention the meager quantity of intelligence on Iraqi nuclear activity in order to cast doubt on the ability to collect intelligence about what goes on inside Iran.

Gen. Dayan is not the first senior officer to imply the threat of military force to prevent Iran from procuring nuclear weapons. Some two and a half years ago Gen. Herzl Budinger, the Air Force commander, addressed the threat contained in the process of Middle East nucleation and sent solid hints to Tehran that spoke of the Air Force's strategic offensive capabilities.

It appears that Generals Dayan and Budinger have adopted a theory developed by the state scientists who analyzed the bombing of the Iraq nuclear reactor in 1981, at the center of which lies what they call "the Begin Doctrine." According to this theory, Israel has devised a policy, the main point of which is the use of military force to prevent additional Middle East countries from obtaining nuclear weapons. The problem is that the Begin Doctrine only existed in the state scientists' papers. In practice, it stopped being valid on the day it was invented. The bombing of the Iraqi reactor was indeed a brilliant strategic move, but it was a one-time event. Other countries have drawn their lessons from the Osirak incident, and their nuclear plans are no longer based on a single reactor, but on installations located in various locations spread over a wide area, some underground. Therefore, use of terminology from a nonexistent doctrine makes the listeners entertain dangerous illusions, including the higher political echelons.

Even more worrying than the remarks the head of the IDF Planning Branch's chief made about a military operation against Iran, is what he said about the future of a nuclear Middle East. Gen. Dayan warned against the attempt "to draw positive conclusions from nuclear history." He claimed that Israel is located in a "region where regimes are unsound" while "Israel is a tempting target."

This means that the head of the IDF Planning Branch determines that, in the nuclear era in the Middle East, Israel's policy cannot be based on deterrence because neighboring leaders are irrational. This, perhaps, is the basic premise of the concept that Iran obtaining nuclear arms should be prevented by military means. After all, the minute those irrational Iranian leaders have nuclear weapons, they will not hesitate launching them at the "tempting" Israeli target.

Quite a few people share the attitude of Gen. Dayan, and just like him they offer no alternative other than repeatedly preaching the use of military force. If indeed Dayan's remarks represent the prevailing view of the IDF high command, it is not clear just how the army is preparing for the nuclear era in the Middle East.

Anyone who believes that nuclear deterrence against the leaders of Iran, Iraq, and others will not suffice, will eventually have to reach the conclusion that a nuclear threat to Israel will entail launching a preemptive strike at the threatening party—which will be the only way to prevent the threat from materializing. This is a dangerous approach that does not belong in a nuclear environment and can only lead to mutual destruction.

The only way to deal with a nuclear threat is deterrence. Any attempt to use a different policy is doomed to failure—whether it is an attempt to develop an active defense system, launching a preemptive strike, or starting a preventive war. The price to be paid for the use of nuclear arms should be deterrence enough. It is so high that it is hard to conceive of any leader believing it is worth using it to attain some goal, no matter how important it is. Do the Iranian leaders really believe that

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the destruction of Israel is a goal worth eliminating Tehran from the face of the earth? I greatly doubt it.

It may be too late now to prevent Iran from obtaining nuclear arms. Yet, if there is even the slightest chance, Israel must change its current attitude and initiate a different approach. Basing Israel's policy on the Iranian issue on the bilateral aspect while stressing its military elements would be a mistake. Focus must be on the threat to the world and to regional stability that Iranian nuclear arms pose. This is more an international than an Israeli problem. The struggle against Iranian arms procurement should be conducted by the United States, not Israel.

Threatening declarations such as the one made by Gen. Dayan miss the point. If indeed the forecasts materialize and the United States fails to prevent Iran from arming itself with nuclear weapons, the IDF had better forge a rational deterrent policy and abandon the Begin Doctrine, which cannot be implemented in any event.

Concern Over U.S. Plan To Relocate Embassy Viewed

TA1301122295 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 13 Jan 95 p B3

[From the "Week" column by 'Uzi Benziman: "Our Biggest Worry"]

[FBIS Translated Text] This week, information reached Israel according to which the Republican majority in Congress intends to take serious action to make the administration move the U.S. Embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem. Serious action means linking the budgets required for the continued operation of the embassy with real steps toward its relocation in Jerusalem. This inclination was reported to Israel in order to gauge its reaction: Ironically, instead of causing jubilation, it led to concern and embarrassment in Jerusalem.

The source of this distress lies in the fragility of the peace process and its internal contradictions, which have plunged the country's leadership into a complicated situation. The complexity is so great that it occasionally pushes the decisionmakers into a corner and forces them to confront a tough dilemma: whether to put off or reject a move that was always considered a clear-cut Israeli interest just because it might conflict with a Palestinian interest.

The reason for all this agonizing is the concern that relocating the U.S. Embassy to West Jerusalem will lead to the collapse of the Oslo track and slam the door shut on any Palestinian hopes for a foothold in the city. The assumption is that in the current state of PLO-Israeli relations, both sides are interested in continuing the negotiations. From this point of view, the strategic benefit Israel could gain from giving the peace process a chance to settle its relations with the Palestinian people is greater than any possible political gain from a U.S. decision to relocate the embassy to Jerusalem. In other words: According to this way of thinking, it is wrong to present the dilemma as a clash between Palestinian and Israeli interests in Jerusalem. Perhaps this merely posits an outmoded Israeli interest (U.S. recognition of Jerusalem as Israel's capital) against an updated Israeli (and Palestinian) interest: an end to the conflict between the two peoples.

The decisionmakers must also deal with conflicting considerations, however: Who can guarantee that the results of the peace process will meet their expectations? If Israel hesitates or voices reservations today about the Republicans' intention to force the U.S. Administration to relocate the embassy to Jerusalem, might it not thus be missing a one-time opportunity? How can one be certain that such a decision will make the PLO quit the negotiations? What about Israeli public opinion when people learn that we let such a highly coveted political achievement slip from our grasp? Anyway, is not our very readiness to examine the U.S. initiative from the PLO's viewpoint an overly sanctimonious display of the Christian philosophy of turning the other cheek? Is it not self-evident that Israel's clear interest is to encourage the Republican's to implement their plan without giving undue consideration to the PLO's reaction?

This soul-searching is not hypothetical. Some officials in Jerusalem are busy agonizing over this right now.

Road Built by Settlers Declared 'Illegal'

TA1201183895 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1700 GMT 12 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The Civil Administration has declared that the road built by settlers between the settlement of Shvut Rahel and the Alon road is illegal.

Our settlement affairs correspondent reports that Civil Administration officials said that since September 1994, the chairman of the local council and the road contractor have repeatedly been issued stop-work orders which they chose to ignore.

The existence of the 2-km long road was revealed today by Qol Yisra'el.

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Rabin, Delegation Arrive for Talks With King

JN1201181295 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 1800 GMT 12 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin and his accompanying delegation arrived in Amman a short while ago to hold talks with His Majesty King Husayn on the application of the agreed on provisions of the Jordanian-Israeli peace treaty.

Yitzhaq Rabin is accompanied by Deputy Defense Minister Mordekhay Gur, Israeli Army Chief of Staff Amnon Shahal, Deputy Foreign Minister Yosi Beilin, and several Israeli officials.

Rabin, King Hold Talks

JN1201202795 Amman Jordan Television Network in English 2000 GMT 12 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] His Majesty the king and Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin are holding talks in Amman tonight expected to focus on the implementation of the Jordanian-Israeli peace treaty. The Israeli prime minister arrived by helicopter at al-Hashimiyah Palace today at the head of a delegation, including Deputy Defense Minister Mordekhay Gur, Army Chief General Amnon Shahaq, and Deputy Foreign Minister Yosi Beilin. Attending from the Jordanian side was Prime Minister al-Sharif Zayd Bin-Shakir, Foreign Minister 'Abd-al- Karim al-Kabariti, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff 'Abd-al- Hafiz al-Mar'i, Ambassador Marwan al-Mu'ashshir, and members of Jordan's negotiating team.

It was Rabin's fist visit to Jordan since October 26, when Jordan and Israel signed their peace accords. His majesty the king and the Israeli prime minister are expected to hold a press conference later tonight.

King, Rabin Comment; Rabin Departs

JN1301063395 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 0500 GMT 13 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The Jordanian-Israeli talks were concluded at al-Hashimiyah palace last night. His Majesty King Husayn and the Israeli Prime Minister, Mr. Yitzhaq Rabin, made statements to the press after the talks.

His majesty expressed his happiness for this opportunity to hold another meeting with Mr. Yitzhaq Rabin and his colleagues. His majesty said: A review was made of developments that have occurred since the ratification of the peace treaty and we are happy to say that they are proceeding according to plan. We both are determined to implement the treaty in form and spirit because it lays the basis for future relations between our two peoples.

His majesty said: I have had the opportunity to discuss with the prime minister issues of joint interests concerning respect for our commitments, with which we deal seriously. We are determined to implement these commitments.

For his part, Mr. Yitzhaq Rabin said: His Majesty King Husayn invited me and my colleagues for this meeting to follow up the implementation of the peace treaty, which we have signed. I view this meeting as an ordinary meeting enabling us to continue actual implementation of everything that we have signed.

Rabin added: By 10 February, Israel will have to withdraw to the borders that were agreed to be the international borders between the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan and Israel. We will respect our obligations and will implement this before this fixed date.

Rabin noted that there are many other bilateral issues such as Israel's commitment to supplying Jordan with water from the Jordan River, finding a solution for the problems of water in the Negev on the Israeli side, in addition to issues related to security arrangements related to our withdrawal to the international border.

Mr. Rabin asserted: We will implement in form and spirit everything that we have agreed on and signed. Therefore, His Majesty King Husayn and I are dealing with the all issues on a daily basis and are trying to expedite the implementation of the terms of the treaty, something which will enable Jordan, for instance, to increase its exports to Israel. There are also other issues that will make the peace treaty a treaty felt by the people.

Concluding his statement, Israeli Prime Minister Mr. Yitzhaq Rabin expressed his gratitude to His Majesty King Husayn, stressing that the meeting will hasten the implementation of the peace treaty and that everything to which Israel committed itself will be fully implemented.

His Majesty King Husayn and Mr. Yitzhaq Rabin earlier last night held a meeting at al-Hashimiyah Palace. The meeting was attended by a number of senior officials from both sides. A comprehensive review was made of the terms of the Jordanian-Israeli peace treaty and ways to implement them within the agreed timetable. Foremost of these terms is the Israel side's commitment to withdrawing from the occupied Jordanian territory by 10 February at the latest.

The meeting was attended on the Jordanian side by Prime Minister al-Sharif Zayd Bin-Shakir, Royal Court Chief Marwan al-Qasim, Chief Chamberlain Prince Ra'd bin-Zayd, Foreign Minister 'Abd-al-Karim al-Kabariti, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff General 'Abd-al- Hafiz Mar'i al-Ka'abinah, Jordan's Ambassador-Designate to Israel Dr. Marwan al-Mu'ashshir, the crown prince's legal adviser Ambassador 'Awn al-Khasawinah, and Assistant Chief of Staff Major General Tahsin Shurdum.

It was attended on the Israeli side by Chief of Staff General Amnon Shahaq, Deputy Prime Minister Yosi Beilin, Deputy Defense Minister Mordekhay Gur, and Elyaqim Rubinstein, head of the Israeli side to the joint committee talks, as well as a number of other Israeli officials.

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The Israeli prime minister and his delegation left for Israel last night.

More on Rabin, King Remarks

TA1301071995 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0500 GMT 13 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Prime Minister Rabin has met with Jordan's King Husayn in Amman and returned to Israel. The two leaders decided that within two weeks, by the 25th of January, agreements will be finalized in tourism and trade, and the Israeli market will be open to Jordanian products. Within a month, Israel will withdraw its forces to the international border in keeping with the peace accord.

King Husayn told Israel Radio that he is satisfied with the pace of implementing the peace treaty. He rejected reports that there is disappointment in Jordan over the agreement. In Husayn's words, it's impossible to change reality overnight.

After their meeting, Prime Minister Rabin and King Husayn spoke to reporters. First, King Husayn.

[Begin recording] [Husayn] I had the opportunity to discuss with the prime minister many subjects of equal interest, and we are determined that we will keep meeting every now and then, as we have done in the past, to ensure that progress continues and to ensure that we fulfill our commitment to our peoples, a commitment we take extremely seriously and are determined to fulfill. I would like to thank you once again for your time and your patience and for giving us the pleasure [words indistinct]. Prime Minister.

[Rabin] Your Majesty, ladies and gentlemen of the media, I look to this meeting that his majesty invited me and my colleagues to follow the implementation of the peace treaty that we have signed. I look at it as a regular meeting in which we will follow the exact implementation of whatever we signed about.

As you know, by the 10th of February, Israel has to pull back to what has been agreed as the international boundary between the Kingdom of Jordan and Israel. We'll keep our commitments, and we'll try even to do it in phases prior to this date. There are many other issues that are on a bilateral basis: Israel's commitment to supply Jordan waters from the Jordan, to find a solution to the water problems of our settlements in the Negev on the Israeli side. There are problems of security arrangements, bearing in mind that we are pulling back to the international boundary, and we have to make sure that whatever we have agreed on, we signed on, will be implemented in accordance to the letter and the spirit of the peace treaty. [end recording]

[Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew at 0505 GMT on 13 January broadcasts a brief interview in English with King Husayn at al-Hashimiyah palace following his meeting with Rabin. Asked whether he is disappointed that there are no "dividends" from peace for the time being, the king answered: "I do not believe that this is a fact at all. The peace treaty does not mean that things will change overnight. And I told our people and our people realize it; it is going to take time and effort, but already much has changed. There is a human face to the other side, there is an international border between us, problems of water have been resolved. There is a determination to do everything we can, that we have agreed upon to implement it and see it into reality, and I hope we will do so as rapidly as possible. This meeting is important because beyond what the rest of the world hopefully will contribute, we want to do whatever is possible between us directly, and this is what have agreed upon. Thank you."

Asked whether he is satisfied with the tempo of the implementation of the peace treaty between Israel and Jordan, Husayn said: "I think both the prime minister and I felt that we needed to meet to ensure that the tempo is exactly as we had thought it would be, and I am very satisfied with the meetings."]

Official: Reports of Energy Pact With Israel 'Inaccurate'

JN1301103095 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 13 Jan 95 pp 1, 27

[Report by Caroline Faraj]

[FBIS Translated Text] Amman—Dr. Fakhri al-Daghistani, director general of the Natural Resources Authority, has said media reports that an agreement has been reached between the Jordanian and Israeli sides to cooperate in the energy field are inaccurate. He noted that the two sides are still discussing means to exchange information and expertise in the future in order to reach an agreement.

In exclusive statements to AL-RA'Y, Dr. al-Daghistani said that based on the contents of the Jordanian-Israeli peace treaty in the field of energy and natural resources, the two sides should conclude their talks within six months after the ratification of the treaty. In other words, work is at its beginning and it is still too early to announce an agreement in this regard, even though the two sides agree on the main principles of the negotiations.

Dr. al-Daghistani added that talks held a few days ago between the Jordanian side, led by him, and the Israeli side, led by Amos Ron, secretary general of the Israeli Ministry of Energy, focused on ways to exchange information to define projects that could be implemented jointly, especially in the fields of solar and wind energy, shale oil, and energy conservation.

He added that on the issue of electricity links, the two sides agree on a link between al-'Aqabah and Elat. There are ongoing discussions on expanding the areas of these electricity links.

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On the issue of oil pipelines, the two sides agreed to encourage each other to allow oil pipelines to pass through their countries so that each side would benefit from these pipelines. However, so far there are no specific projects in this regard.

On the issue of shale oil, Dr. al-Daghistani said that the two sides are exchanging information in this field and are discussing the possibility of cooperating in the field of research and exchange of expertise so each side can benefit from energy production when the technology needed is available and economic.

He said the joint committee will meet in mid-February to continue talks on ways to exchange information and on outstanding projects that could be jointly implemented after the two countries sign sub- agreements based on the articles of the peace treaty.

Paper Urges Israel To Sign NPT Treaty

JN1201175795 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 12 Jan 95 pp 1, 20

[Unattributed editorial: "Israel and Nuclear Weapons"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Israel's continued refusal to sign the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty [NPT] is not understood, especially when it is asking regional states which have not yet signed this treaty, to do so.

We do not believe there is anything that can justify such an Israeli position, unless Israel regards itself as a state above the law, which has the right to do what other states are not permitted to do, including the right to possess weapons of mass destruction.

Perhaps, the first Middle East state which is now demanded to sign the NNT is Israel itself. Various sources of information are unanimous that Israel possesses a nuclear arsenal. Some sources estimate this arsenal at approximately 200 nuclear warheads.

Worse still, Israel, which is the only regional party that possesses nuclear warheads, creates much clamor whenever an attempt by this or that state to acquire nuclear technology remotely appears on the Middle East horizon.

How can Israel justify such a position, which calls on the world to punish any state that seeks to employ nuclear technology, even for peaceful purposes, at a time when it is preventing the International Atomic Energy Agency to inspect the nuclear research centers which were established in Israel tens of years ago?

The atmosphere of peace, which has begun to spread in the Middle East for the first time in the history of this volotile region, dictates the need to work for turning the Middle East into a region devoid of nuclear arms and weapons of mass destruction. This objective, however, can only be achieved if Israel signs the NNT and opens its centers to the international inspectors, exactly like other states.

Latest Issue of AL-MUHARRIR Banned

JN1301065395

[FBIS Editorial Report] Amman SHIHAN in Arabic in its 14-20 January issue on page 4 publishes the following report:

"The Press and Publication Department has banned last week's issue of AL-MUHARRIR because the newspaper publishes an interview with Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi in which he criticized the Arab states that signed a peace treaty with Israel."

Al-Kabariti Returns From Egypt, Comments

JN1201174995 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1600 GMT 12 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Foreign Minister 'Abd-al-Karim al-Kabariti returned to Amman this evening after a brief visit to Egypt, during which he conveyed a verbal message from His Majesty King Husayn to his brother His Excellency Egyptian President Muhammad Husni Mubarak. Al-Kabariti also held talks with Egyptian Prime Minister 'Atif Sidqi and Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa.

Regarding the topics discussed during the visit, the minister stated the following upon his return:

[Begin recording] [al-Kabariti] In fact, I visited Cairo at the invitation of the Egyptian foreign minister. As soon as I arrived in Cairo, I met with His Excellency Egyptian President Mubarak and conveyed to him a verbal message from his brother his majesty the king. We agreed, God be praised, to remove all obstacles in the way to restoring normal relations between the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan and Egypt. We raised several issues and resolved the issue of the Jordanian students, who will be accepted by Egyptian universities. We also agreed to resume economic talks, which have been suspended for a long time, and to hold a meeting of the Higher Ministerial Committee at a date to be fixed by both countries' prime ministers later on. I believe the coming days will witness tangible activity by the joint Egyptian-Jordanian diplomacy.

[Correspondent] Mr. Minister: The Jerusalem Committee will meet on Monday [16 January]. Did you discuss this issue with President Mubarak, especially since Egypt was accepted as a member of this committee?

[Al-Kabariti] It was one of the issues we discussed, and Jordan and the Republic of Arab Egypt had identical views. I do not believe there is any problem in this regard between us and Egypt.

[Correspondent] Sir: Is there any imminent Jordanian-Egyptian summit and another Jordanian-Palestinian summit to discuss the Jerusalem issue?

[Al-Kabariti] The issue of the Egyptian-Jordanian summit will be determined by both countries' leaders.

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However, I sensed a serious trend to overcome all obstacles on all levels. [end recording]

Qatari Foreign Ministry Official Departs

JN1301151195 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 13 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Ahmad Bin-'Abdallah Al Mahmud, Qatari Foreign Ministry under secretary, left Amman today following a visit to Jordan. During the visit, he met with a number of senior Jordanian officials and held talks with Foreign Ministry Secretary General Nayif al-Hadid. [passage omitted]

Al-Hadid has made remarks to our correspondent, saying:

[Begin al-Hadid recording] We were pleased with the visit of the brother Qatari Foreign Ministry secretary general [title as heard]. We discussed activating the signed agreements and promoting other agreements. We also exchanged some positive ideas which are now under discussion. For example, we proposed carrying out maintenance work on Qatari aircraft in Jordan. This proposal is under discussion and it will be implemented in the future, God willing, when we have had sufficient consultations and information.

Moreover, we discussed the issue of citizens' movement between the two countries, which is a positive sign. There are many facilities to the Jordanian citizens through hotels in Amman. [sentence as heard] There will also be promotion in terms of businessmen and investment.

We also discussed the issue of the private sector and its contributions, promotion, and activation in the joint ministerial committee that will convene in March or April in Doha, God willing. It will be led by the foreign minister and will include the secretaries general of concerned ministries, as well as businessmen, and officials from the chambers of commerce and industry. [end recording]

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Al-Hariri, U.S. Official on Security Committee Issue

NC1201134795 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1215 GMT 12 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Today Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri received U.S. Charge d'Affaires Ron Schlicher, who was accompanied by Peter Martinez, director of the Lebanon, Syria, and Jordan Desk at the U.S. State Department.

According to our political correspondent, the talks between Prime Minister al-Hariri and the U.S. officials dealt with the current controversy over the Lebanese security committee which is charged with holding a dialogue with the U.S. Administration over the lifting of the U.S. travel ban on Lebanon.

Two conflicting stands have been taken by the two sides in the past few hours. While the U.S. side has welcomed the Lebanese committee and Under Secretary of State Peter Tarnoff disclosed part of the Lebanese-U.S. agenda, especially talks on security at Beirut Airport, Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri took a different stand at the Cabinet meeting. In response to complaints by some ministers that they had not been consulted and that the security committee was formed without the Cabinet's consent, Prime Minister al-Hariri said the file has not been completed yet and that the agenda between the two sides has not been prepared. When the picture becomes complete, the issue will be submitted to the Cabinet for a decision.

Buwayz on Security Committee Agenda, Syria Visit

NC1301144095 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1215 GMT 13 Jan 95

[News conference by Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz with unidentified correspondents in Beirut on 13 January—recorded]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Correspondent] Can we consider the arrival of [U.S. emissary] Peter Martinez as a move designed to provide certain clarifications about the Lebanese-U.S. Joint Security Committee and other issues? Is he in Lebanon on a specific mission or an exploratory visit?

[Buwayz] First of all, I believe that the U.S. emissary's visit is part of a tour he is making of several Middle Eastern countries. Concerning the purpose of his visit, I believe that it is being carried out in the context of the peace process and the status of the negotiations, which are currently relatively frozen or slow. It also comes in the general context of Lebanese-U.S. relations in the political, economic, and perhaps also the security spheres. Of course he submitted to us the U.S. view regarding the Lebanese-U.S. Joint Security Committee's agenda. We will examine this agenda, draw up a Lebanese agenda, and finally agree on a unified agenda.

[Correspondent] Mr. Minister, is the U.S. delay in naming a delegation to the Security Committee linked to the agenda issue?

[Buwayz] Despite some contradictory media reports, I believe that the actual talks are expected to begin in late January. No change has occurred on that point. We asked them right from the beginning to specify the issues that the committee will handle. This agenda was submitted to us today. We will examine it carefully.

[Correspondent] Is the agenda limited to the issue of Beirut Airport's security or does it extend to the security of Beirut's Southern Suburb and the Lebanese resistance forces?

[Buwayz] The agenda is confined to issues pertaining to the security of U.S. interests in Lebanon including personnel and establishments. Since the issue was first raised, we clearly specified the committee's functions. We declared that it will have nothing to do with the peace negotiations, an issue left to our negotiating delegation. We also said that it will not deal with the issue of the south, an issue linked to the Israeli occupation. Everything linked to the Israeli occupation and its consequences—including resistance operations and the security situation—falls directly under the heading of the U.S.-sponsored Lebanese-Israeli peace negotiations. The task of the Security Committee, on the other hand, is confined to U.S.-Lebanese bilateral relations and the U.S. wish to reassess the security situation in Lebanon and perhaps reconsider some of its former measures in this connection.

[Correspondent] What can you tell us about your talks with Syrian President al-Asad and Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar'?

[Buwayz] I believe that it is clear that the recent round of talks between the [Syrian and Israeli] chiefs of staff did not produce concrete results. Pending new proposals that would justify the resumption of the negotiations, it appears that they are suspended, at least temporarily.

Syrian 'Unease' Over U.S.-Lebanese Committee Revealed

NC1301151195 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1250 GMT 13 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Beirut, 13 Jan (MENA)—Lebanese political sources have revealed that the Syrian leadership is concerned about Israel's new attempts to shatter the stable security in Lebanon and escalate tension in the south and western al-Biqa' as a result of the faltering negotiations on the Syrian-Israeli and Lebanese-Israeli tracks.

The sources said that Syria's heightened concern over this matter was conveyed to Lebanese Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz during the extensive talks he held in Damascus yesterday with Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad and Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar'.

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These sources added that the Syrian leadership revealed during these talks a pessimistic atmosphere regarding the peace process due to the absence of tangible progress as a result of Israel's adherence to its negative proposals and refusal to withdraw fully from the Golan Heights. This returned the situation to an impasse that will be difficult to break in the absence of any serious Israeli proposal, despite the fact that the level of contacts on the Syrian track was raised.

The Lebanese sources pointed out that Syria's evaluation proceeds from the results of the meetings of the committee for exchanging ideas that met at the end of last year.

The sources said that during the meetings the Syrian leadership expressed great satisfaction with the results of the Alexandria summit and the positive signs that emerged from it regarding Arab solidarity and freezing the normalization process, which some Gulf states had started. The sources highlighted the important role President Husni Mubarak and Saudi monarch King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz played in bolstering Syria's negotiating stand in the peace talks.

The sources noted that the issue of the Lebanese-U.S. Joint Security Committee, which was formed to hold talks with the U.S. Administration on measures to be taken to provide security at Beirut Airport and prepare for lifting the ban on the travel of U.S. citizens to Lebanon, was the focus of great attention from the Syrian officials during the Damascus talks yesterday.

These sources revealed that the Syrian leadership noted its caution and unease regarding the objectives and tasks of this committee, just when Lebanese Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz affirmed that his government restricted the duties of the committee to discussing the security issues pertaining to Beirut airport without going beyond this matter and delving into political issues dealing with the peace process. Buwayz also affirmed that Lebanon refuses to extend discussions to include the situation in the southern suburb, which is next to the airport, or to the issue of the Lebanese Resistance.

The Lebanese foreign minister clarified during the talks with the Syrians that his country is still waiting for an answer on the agenda for the negotiations of the Lebanese-U.S. Joint Security Committee before defining the final Lebanese stance.

These sources pointed out that the Syrian leadership asked that the agenda of this committee be particularly specific so that its tasks do not fall into unexpected political traps that might affect the course of negotiations in the peace process in the future.

After returning to Beirut last night, Buwayz informed Lebanese President Ilyas al-Hirawi yesterday evening of the results of his talks in Damascus. Next week, the Lebanese Council of Ministers will discuss a report submitted by the Lebanese foreign minister on his talks with the Syrians.

Cabinet Does Not Discuss Transfer of Palestinians

NC1101195795 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1915 GMT 11 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The cabinet has endorsed the bylaws of the Defense Ministry prisons and has formed a committee of three ministers to study the statute of the constitutional council.

Michel al-Murr, deputy prime minister and minister of interior, read the cabinet resolutions out loud. He said that President al- Hirawi and Prime Minister al-Hariri expressed satisfaction with the current situation following the Christmas holidays. [passage omitted]

Al-Murr said the date of the Higher Lebanese-Syrian Committee meeting is still under discussion pending contacts between President al-Hirawi and Syrian President al-Asad.

The cabinet did not discuss the diplomatic security committee entrusted with lifting the ban on American travel to Lebanon, nor the transfer of Palestinian fighters to the Gaza Strip. [passage omitted]

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Al-Shar' Rules Out Imminent Resumption of U.S. Talks

NC1201215595 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1715 GMT 12 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] In Damascus, Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad received Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz. Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' attended. [passage omitted]

Earlier, Buwayz met with his Syrian counterpart and disclosed that the discussions dealt with the peace process, the worsening situation in the south, the meetings of the Jerusalem Committee, and the lifting by some Arab countries of the boycott against Israel and the impact of this on the negotiations. [passage omitted]

For his part, al-Shar' ruled out the possibility of an imminent resumption of talks in Washington and stressed that previous talks produced no results.

Our correspondent in the Syrian capital reported that Damascus has reservations on the transfer of Palestinian fighters from Lebanon to Gaza to join the Palestinian police force. This is because the principle of consultations has not been respected, especially since the issue has regional implications and is closely linked to the peace proces.

Minister Denies 'Secret' Meetings With Israelis

JN1201213595 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 2115 GMT 12 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Commenting on what the Israeli officials and their media agencies have been in the habit of doing—leaking news about secret meetings taking place with some Syrian personalities—Information Minister Muhammad Salman has said that this news is fabricated and is a figment of the imagination.

Salman said such meetings have not taken place, and will not take place, outside the framework of the negotiations sponsored by the United States.

Radio: Israel 'Squandered' 3 Years of Peace Process

JN1201174195 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1237 GMT 12 Jan 95

[Station commentary]

[FBIS Translated Text] If Israel really wants peace, then it is difficult and even impossible to understand the words and deeds of Israeli leaders and rulers. If Israel's goal is peace, then it is impossible to grasp the relationship between Yitzhaq Rabin's statements on Israel's preparedness for protracted wars and peace. It is also impossible to comprehend the relationship between peace and Yitzhaq Rabin saying that Israel will not return to the 4 June 1967 lines. Also, it is impossible to understand the relationship between peace—if this is Israel's true goal—and the continued brutal aggression against Lebanon through bombardment and shelling, whose bloody consequences the world is witnessing on a daily basis. It is impossible to conceive the relationship between peace—if Israeli really wants it—and insistence on the confiscation of occupied Palestinian lands with the aim of establishing Israeli settlements and insistence on arresting Arab citizens there, in addition to Israel's killing of the sons of the Palestinian Arab people at the hands of the Israeli occupation army and settlers and their armed organizations that support this army.

Certainly, however, this Israeli behavior can be comprehended if Israel is seeking something other than peace—something that was expressed by David Ben-Gurion 45 years ago when he said that Israel does not need peace but rather 40 years of tension, by Moshe Dayan 25 years ago when he said it is the Israeli's destiny to live with the helmet on his head, and by Yitzhaq Rabin five days ago when he said that Israel should prepare for protracted wars. In other words, if Israel really has been seeking peace on the ground and not merely through rhetoric, it should have announced three years and three months ago, i.e. when the peace process was launched in Madrid, that it is committed to the implementation of full withdrawal from all occupied Syrian and Arab lands to 4 June 1967 lines. Israel not only rejects to announce this commitment, but announces something to the contrary, that is, its clear intentions to preserve, in other words to annex and Judaize what it wishes of the occupied Arab lands. Therefore, Israel has squandered three years of the peace process. Real peace could have been achieved in only part of this period, which is more than enough. It should be noted, however, that there is no relationship whatsoever between peace and the partial deals signed between Israel and some Arab sides, if peace means only tension and continued explosion. It is impossible for the word "peace" to imply such a meaning.

This is not the only obstacle Israel has placed before the peace process. There is an equally serious obstacle; namely, security arrangements as envisioned by Israel. Without going into details, it should be understood that Syria, which does not patronize any one, does not allow any one to patronize it. This Syrian stand is both a moral and legal one, because justice renders all parties equal. Therefore, Syria insists that peace should be just. This means that security arrangements that follow a comprehensive Israeli withdrawal should be balanced arrangements, more specifically equal arrangements on both sides without favoring one side at the expense of the other.

Actually, the Israeli conventional and unconventional military program strongly emphasizes that Israel is not willing to establish peace in the region. Israel is acquiring the world's most modern weapons and developing its military nuclear program and declines to sign the Treaty on the Nonproliferation of Nuclear Arms. So, how can all this conform with Israeli claims of an alleged desire to establish peace? And, can talks be held under armament and threats of protracted and short wars or a blitzkrieg as Rabin is threatening.

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Rabin's statements and threats in an atmosphere that is supposed to be one of peace talks call for amazement and condemnation and, at the same time, give rise to certain questions. Egypt was alarmed by this talk and called for making the region a nuclear-free one and for Israel to commit itself to this if it really seeks peace and to refrain from threats of war against the region's peoples.

Syria has been and will continue to be an advocate of just and comprehensive peace. Its stand is clear to the entire world. Peace is a strategy Syria adopted 25 years ago. However, this desire does not mean submission to threats or getting involved in distorted deals tailored according to Israel's requirements. Peace should be just, and if it is not, it should not exist.

Press on Israeli 'Escalation' in Lebanon

JN1301091195 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0545 GMT 13 Jan 95

[Press review]

[FBIS Translated Text] The newspaper AL-BA'TH comments on Israeli escalation in southern Lebanon and statements by Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin to the effect that Israel will continue its attacks on southern Lebanon, saying: For the past few days, the Tel Aviv leaders have been working to heighten tension in southern Lebanon. The Israeli shelling of south Lebanese villages and farmlands has become continuous. Yesterday, during a visit to the occupied part of southern Lebanon, Rabin said the Israeli Army will continue its military operations against southern Lebanon.

AL-BA'TH adds: Observers believe these indications categorically demonstrate that Israel, particularly in the aftermath of the penetrations it has achieved, will create several excuses to evade the requirements of peace. The entire world community has begun to realize it is Israeli policy alone that is precluding progress in the peace talks, particularly on the Syrian and Lebanese tracks of negotiations. The Israeli leaders appear to believe continuation of military pressure on Lebanon can create the climate Israel believes is conducive to the achievement of its objectives.

AL-BA'TH goes on to say that Lebanon has repeatedly underscored that the only solution lies in complete and full withdrawal from southern Lebanon in compliance with UN Resolution 425, which Rabin has said does not exist. The paper adds: The escalation being carried out by Israel in southern Lebanon cannot contribute to progress in the peace process. Quite the opposite, this Israeli policy and Rabin's successive threats demonstrate that Israel is not seeking peace.

The paper concludes its commentary by saying: We in Syria and Lebanon are well aware that the Israeli policy is completely divorced from the peace process and its terms of reference. Nonetheless, we would like to reiterate that this Israeli policy is exposed, and that it will not manage to achieve its goals. It is high time Israel realized true peace cannot be achieved by the continuation of aggression and expansion.

For its part, the newspaper AL-THAWRAH says: The Israeli stand has not thus far measured up to the hopes pinned on the peace process. It has not made any contributions that could promote peace. The opposite is quite true. Israeli political discourse has continued to demonstrate a failure to comprehend change, to understand historical fact, or adapt to the logic of the age, which contravenes the policy of aggression and occupation.

The paper adds: Recent statements by Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin, in which he rejected withdrawal to the 4 June 1967 borders, unquestionably reflect a deep-seated Israeli animosity to peace, as well as an arrogant and expansionist approach. His warning that Israel might use force instead of peaceful means betrays a desire to evade compliance with the relevant UN Security Council resolutions, and reflects political bankruptcy as well as a failure to dilute the Syrian and Lebanese stands and entice them into the trap of separate solutions, which abandon and relinquish territories, rights, and firm principles. However, in his heart of hearts, Rabin is well aware that warnings and intimidation are no longer helpful, and that the policy of blackmail and harassment has never been useful with Syria, nor will it be, at present or in the future. This is because the achievement of complete withdrawal from the Golan, southern Lebanon, and the rest of the occupied Arab territories, including Jerusalem, will remain Syria's key objective.

AL-THAWRAH concludes by saying: Peace is not merely sweet words or slogans that are not followed through. As a matter of fact, it is the outcome of efforts, action, and a courageous political will.

In another commentary, the newspaper AL-THAWRAH addresses Israel's refusal to sign the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty [NPT] at a time when the U.S. defense secretary stated that the NPT is important worldwide, saying: It is unreasonable that the United States, a cosponsor of the peace process, should exempt Israel from signing the aforementioned treaty, because this would jeopardize the U.S. initiative as well as U.S. credibility. This would further exacerbate the situation, given the fact that the United States is a superpower that shoulders grave responsibilities toward maintaining peace and promoting the new world order it has authored.

The paper goes on to say that Israel's refusal to sign the aforementioned treaty, and its determination to forge ahead with the development of nuclear weapons and ban international organizations from inspecting its installations seriously jeopardize world peace and security and compromise regional stability. This is because there can be no peace as long as there is an imbalance, particularly since the two parties to any peace arrangement must enjoy a certain parity. It is to be recalled that Israel is the

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only country in the region that is in possession of nuclear weapons. This country is the party opposed to the components of peace.

AL-THAWRAH concludes its commentary by saying that the final solution must provide security for all. Nonetheless, the fact that Israel will remain in possession of nuclear weapons will place the Arabs in constant jeopardy.

Lebanese Foreign Minister Meets With al-Asad

JN1201145395 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1215 GMT 12 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad received Faris Buwayz, Lebanese foreign minister, today at 1330. The meeting was attended by Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar'.

Buwayz arrived in Damascus this morning on a visit to the Syrian Arab Republic. He was received at the Syrian-Lebanese border post by Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' and a number of senior Foreign Ministry officials.

In a statement to the Syrian Arab News Agency, SANA, correspondent Buwayz said: My visit to Syria falls within the framework of continued consultations between the two sisterly states concerning developments in the region. The major topics are the developments of the peace process, the impact of the Alexandria summit, and preparation with Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' for the Rabat summit which will include the Jerusalem Committee meetings.

Buwayz stressed that consultations and coordination between the two sisterly states are two basic needs at this stage and that strengthening ranks is more necessary now than ever before. He said that discussions will also deal with the hastiness of some Arab states in dealing with Israel, which harms the interests of the Arab negotiator and Arab rights.

Meets With Faruq al-Shar'

JN1201175095 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1615 GMT 12 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' received Lebanese Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz this morning. The meeting dealt with the developments of the peace process. They also exchanged opinions on the meeting of the Jerusalem Committee due to be held in Morocco next week.

PLO's Qaddumi Meets Buwayz, al-Shar' in Damascus

JN1201185695 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1515 GMT 12 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] PLO Political Department Head Abu-al-Lutf [Faruq Qaddumi] has arrived in Damascus. Qaddumi met with Lebanese Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz who arrived in Damascus today. A three-way meeting was held among Qaddumi, Buwayz, and Faruq al-Shar'. The discussion during the meeting dealt with the issue of Palestinian forces stationed on Lebanese territory joining the Palestinian police force in the National Authority areas.

Maltese Deputy Prime Minister Arrives for Visit

JN1001193495 Damascus Syrian Arab Television Network in Arabic 1830 GMT 10 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Guido De Marco, Maltese deputy prime minister and foreign minister, arrived in Damascus today on a visit to Syria.

He was received at Damascus International Airport by Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar', senior Foreign Ministry officials, the Maltese ambassador in Damascus, and the embassy staff. [passage omitted]

Meets With al-Asad, Comments

JN1101193395 Damascus Syrian Arab Television Network in Arabic 1830 GMT 11 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] President Hafiz al-Asad received at the People's Palace at 1730 today Guido De Marco, Maltese deputy prime minister and foreign minister, and his delegation. The meeting was attended by Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' and Maltese Ambassador to Syria Ives de Barro.

Discussions during the meeting dealt with the situation in the Arab region, as well as the peace process and its developments.

In a statement to the television, De Marco said: I believe it was a useful meeting for me. I was impressed by his excellency the president's clear vision and great desire to see the peace process proceeding within the bounds of the UN Security Council resolutions. I can add that his great desire for peace, which his excellency the president made clear, is marked by a great sense of responsibility toward his country and toward Syria's dignity and pride.

Foreign Ministers Hold Talks

JN1101145295 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1215 GMT 11 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] A round of talks was held this morning between the Syrian Arab side, led by Faruq al-Shar', foreign minister, and the Maltese side, led by Guido De Marco, Maltese deputy prime minister and foreign minister. [passage omitted]

The talks dealt with international developments, the situation in the region, and cooperation between European and Mediterranean countries.

The two sides reviewed developments in the peace process. The Maltese foreign minister expressed his

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country's support for Syria's principled stand on realizing a just and comprehensive peace on the basis of the Security Council Resolutions 242, 338, and 425 and the principle of land for peace.

The talks also dealt with bilateral relations, and the two sides expressed a desire to expand and develop them in various fields.

Departs After 'Positive' Talks

JN1201203695 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1215 GMT 12 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Guido De Marco, Maltese deputy prime minister and foreign minister, left Damascus early this morning after a two-day visit to Syria.

In a statement before leaving Damascus, De Marco expressed his great pleasure over his meeting with President Hafiz al-Asad. He stressed that Syria is playing a major role in the Middle East peace process and that it is seeking to bring about peace and to preserve, at the same time, the dignity and sovereignty of the Syrian people.

De Marco said: I had the honor of being received by President Hafiz al-Asad and holding lengthy talks with him, and his excellency explained to me Syria's position in a very clear and convincing way. He added said: I am sure that Syria is playing a major role in the Middle East peace process, and I believe that it has a strong political desire to achieve peace and preserve, at the same time, its people's right to sovereignty and dignity. This desire, he said, is the most obvious element in the Syrian position.

De Marco them described his visit to Syria as very positive, and said that he had held expanded talks with Foreign Minister Faruq al- Shar' on issues of mutual interest. He also expressed his belief that both sides hold similar views on the issues they had discussed, foremost of which are the Middle East peace process, the issue of stability in the Mediterranean region, Europe's relations with Mediterranean states, and bilateral relations.

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Afghanistan

Council Unanimously Passes Draft Constitution

LD1201182295 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 12 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] A session of the Joint Reconciliation Council of the Islamic State of Afghanistan, chaired by esteemed Lieutenant-General Mir Anjamoddin, chairman of the Understanding and Liaison Commission, was held yesterday.

At this meeting the draft constitution of Afghanistan, upon which work has been carried out for a long time by experts and other learned people, was approved unanimously.

The draft text will be presented at a suitable time to the appropriate legal body, the Islamic Grand Council of Afghanistan, for approval.

The draft constitution, consisting of four chapters and 163 articles, has been compiled after making use of other Islamic and international societies' constitutions. [passage omitted]

Bangladesh

Effect of Political Instability on Economy

BK1201163095 Dhaka DAINIK INQILAB in Bengali 2 Jan 95 p 1

[Report by M. Abdullah]

[FBIS Translated Text] The outgoing year 1994 was a year of failures and frustration for the industrial and trade sectors of Bangladesh. Industrial production registered a downward trend during the past 12 months. Export trade not only failed to achieve the target, but was much less when compared to the previous year. The main factors responsible for this decline in industrial production and export earnings are political instability, unequal competition in the international market, a defective tax policy, and frequent power blackouts. This was stated by concerned quarters. These quarters further added that the opposition boycott of Parliament and their movement since March 1994 had an adverse impact on the overall economy of the country including the trade and industrial sectors. Apart from this, the direct effect of the free market policy, introduced by the present government when it came to power, is being felt from the year 1994. The statistics available for the industrial sector for the fiscal year 1993-94 and the fiscal year 1994-95 shows that there has been an alarming decrease in industrial production during the current fiscal year. The majority of sectors failed to achieve their target. The production level was very frustrating especially in state-owned industrial units.

In the private sector, the condition of textile mills is miserable. Available information shows that production in the textile sector during the period under review was about 50 percent less than the target. The factors which are responsible for this miserable plight of the textile sector are uninterrupted smuggling, dearth of raw materials, a defective tax policy, and the free import of cloth for ready made garment industries. It has been learned that if the present situation continues, then by the end of the current fiscal year the textile sector of the country will face a grave threat.

The available statistics further show that during the period under review there has been a sharp decline in the production of other industries including jute, steel and engineering, rubber, ready made garments, and sugar. Different sources said that political instability was not the only cause for this decline in production. Various industries were compelled to lower their production level since the demand of their products declined following unequal competition with foreign products.

The picture of the export trade of the country, which has been received for the period under review, also is frustrating. The available statistics show that the target of export earnings was not achieved in any single month between January to December 1994. Exports from almost all major sectors including ready made garments alarmingly declined during the period. The available information shows that the deficit in export earnings in comparison to the target fixed for different sectors for the year 1994-95 are as follows: ready made garments—25 percent, tea—60 percent, raw jute—about 45 percent, agricultural products—20 percent, handicrafts—27 percent, and other products under the crash program—75 percent. According to the concerned exporters and the Export Promotion Bureau, the main factors responsible for this failure in export trade are political instability, unequal competition in the international market, unnecessary complexities at the port, and power blackouts.

The attention of Salman F. Rahman, president of the Federation of the Bangladesh Chamber of Commerce and Industry, yesterday evening was drawn to the failures and frustrations in the industrial and trade sectors of the country last year. He said there existed ample scope for the growth of industrial, trade, and investment sectors during year, however, we failed to utilize these opportunities due to political instability. During the past nine months, instead of taking necessary measures for the growth of the economy, the government was busy tackling the political crisis prevailing in the country. He added that power failures are also responsible for the decline in industrial production. He blamed both the government and the opposition parties for the prevailing political crisis. The attention of Abdul Kashem Haider, managing director of the Youth Group—a leading force in the ready made garment industry, was drawn to the decline in the exports of ready made garments. He said strikes, blockades, and political instability in the past nine months have severely affected the development of the garment industries. He said the garment industries of Bangladesh were going to achieve success within the next

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one or two years due to the free market policy introduced by the present government, but this has been impeded due to the unfavorable situation which began last year.

India

Reportage of Perry's Visit Continues

Media Reaction Roundup

BK1301122095

[FBIS Editorial Report] U.S. Secretary of Defense William Perry began his three-day visit to India on 12 January. The U.S. and Indian Governments signed an agreement on defense cooperation. The Indian Government described the new agreement as "a landmark" and Home Minister Chavan hoped for "concrete results in the near future." [Delhi Radio] However, the opposition Communist Party of India-Marxist "expressed its reservation" over the defense agreement. [Delhi Radio]

Follows a brief survey of commentary and editorials from media covered by Bangkok Bureau for 12 January: In previewing the visit, the media focussed on the state of relations with the United States. A commentary carried by Delhi All India Radio in English called the Perry visit "a major landmark." It noted that "political and economic linkages have opened up possibilities of cooperation in the security area" and stated the "mutual exchange of the security concerns of the countries will, it is hoped, remove misperceptions and promote better appreciation of the reasons why there may be disagreement on certain issues." Delhi JANSATTA in Hindi, a centrist publication, published an article which stated "along with the beginning of a new era of cooperation in the field of defense, India is hopeful of removing the unpleasantness in Indo-American relations that developed during the Cold War and of ending Washington's continuing bias toward Pakistan." An editorial published in Delhi INDIAN EXPRESS in English noted the "commercial aspect of deepening defence cooperation" and that "the U.S. too will be trying to discover how far Indian defence planning is still interlocked with Russia." It added that "there is obviously much more on Washington's mind" and concluded by urging the Indian Government to have "less inhibitions about pursuing India's security and commercial-technological interests." Delhi THE HINDUSTAN TIMES in English published an editorial which cautioned the Indian Government "to prepare itself" to respond to "unsavoury proposals" during the Perry visit.

Defense Cooperation Commentary

BK1301040395 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 13 Jan 95

[Commentary by Defense Analyst C. Udaibhaskar]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The three-powered defense cooperation agreed minutes between India and the United States signed yesterday is indeed historic and provides a conducive framework to strengthen the relationship between the two countries. This needs to be viewed in the larger context of the bilateral relationship which had been estranged due to Cold War compulsions for almost five decades. This estrangement which stemmed from divergent security perceptions is mercifully a thing of the past with the internment of the Cold War. It is paradoxical but true that during those strained years, there was very little Indo-U.S. interaction in defense and security related areas. There has been a steady improvement in the overall tenor of the Indo-U.S. dialogue since the end of the Cold War. This received further impetus with the Indian economic liberalization program and the visit of the prime minister, Mr. Narasimha Rao, to the USA last year. Having established a suitable bilateral ambience to consolidate the political and economic interaction, it was logical that a similar framework be outlined for the security field also.

The present arrangement provides a suitable framework for both sides to better comprehend each other's security imperatives. At a macro level, there are a number of core convergencies in the Indo-U.S. security perceptions. To it, a commitment to liberal democratic values, the nurturing of peace and stability, strengthening of disarmament, and the denunciation of state- sponsored terrorism, amongst other aspects. Yet, the perceptions on either side about the means adopted to achieve these ends have often been at variance. The proposed interaction between the two defense ministries and their military counterparts will serve to facilitate a more productive perception dialogue which, in essence, is the need of the hour. For sure, there are a number of areas and issues on which there will be divergencies. But, as the professional interaction gathers momentum, there will be a greater understanding and empathy with each other's compulsions and constraints. In this sense, the current arrangement sets the right tenor.

Mr. Perry's remarks in Islamabad just prior to his coming to India cannot be ignored. The nuances inherent in those statements has to be seen in the context of the troubled U.S.-Pakistan relationship whose genesis and quality is quite different from that of the India-U.S. dialogue. The nurturing of the latter must not be compared with or determined by the former.

Spokesman's Statement

BK1301095095 Delhi ISI Diplomatic Information Service in English 0916 GMT 13 Jan 95

["Spokesman's Statement on Defence Secretary Perry's Visit"—ISI headline]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The agreed minutes is the first document between the two defence ministries of India and USA in the post-Cold War period.

Service-to-service cooperation has already existed since the Army-to-Army General Kicklighter's proposals of

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the early 1990s, which were later expanded to the navy and the air force. These envisage exchange of visits, training facilities, observing exercises, joint exercises, and partizipation in seminars. Civil-to-civil contacts between the two defence ministries is normal, and is intended to supervise and give guidance where necessary, to the service-to-service working groups. In both countries, as in all genuine democracies, civil and political leadership exercise supervision and control over the military. Joint production cooperation, which is the third aspect covered in the agreed minutes is also not new and dates back to the mid-1980s and the important Light Combat Aircraft project in which the two countries have been working together successfully. It is hoped to expand such cooperation in other such fields of benefit to India. These fields would be determined by MOD [Ministry of Defense] and discussed further with USA in the context of the agreed minutes.

The agreed minutes represent a step forward and give formal shape to what is already envisaged or has been in force.

Perry's visit is in the context of PM's [prime minister's] visit to USA last May, and the call made by Dr. Perry on PM then. It is part of a growing series of exchange of visits which, we hope, will continue in the context of a new partnership decided in the Rao-Clinton joint statement.

Non-proliferation, nuclear and missile issues did not figure in the morning's discussions.

Dr. Perry paid a courtesy call on the home minister, followed by a delegation-to-delegation discussions.

In the latter Dr. Perry referred to three objectives of his visit, the first being the signing of the agreed minutes, second, discussions on peace-keeping operations, and third, readiness to be transparent and inform us of his discussions with Russia, China and Pakistan. Dr. Perry stated that he came to India as a friend, and to strengthen the bilateral relationship. He was ready to be open about what USA was doing in their own country and what they were doing with other countries also. He felt that more discussions at official level could take place on peace-keeping operations under the UN flag, particularly on the mandate and management of these operations. He felt that defence relationship was a part of the overall atmosphere of improving bilateral ties in the economic and trade areas.

New Delhi

January 12, 1995

MEA's 'Nonchalance', Brown Preview

BK1301100295 Delhi THE ECONOMIC TIMES in English 12 Jan 95 p 8

[Article by Arindam Sen Gupta: "Expect No Returns?"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The US defence secretary, Mr William Perry, drops in today for a day-and-a-half visit to this country and the US commerce secretary, Mr Ronald H Brown, follows him here tomorrow for a week-long visit. Normally, the MEA [Ministry of External Affairs] should have been up to its ears in work. But there is an air of nonchalance among the mandarins in South Block. This is because the visits do not touch them at all—yet another pointer to the MEA's marginalisation under the Rao regime. Mr Perry's visit is being dealt with by the PMO [Prime Minister's Office] (as the prime minister is the country's defence minister) and Mr Brown will be hosted by his Indian counterpart, Mr Pranab Mukherji.

Well, the MEA's marginalisation is a relatively minor matter—what really matters is to ensure that the country's interests are served. But are they?

Let's look at these two visits. Mr Perry comes here from Islamabad to sign a memorandum of agreement on Indo-US defence cooperation. The basis of this agreement are the Kick Leiter proposals, the thrust of which is greater service-to-service contacts. In other words, US armed personnel would be coming here to acquaint themselves with Indian military set-ups as well as systems and vice-versa.

The two countries would also be undertaking joint exercises which would not only have a bilateral but a regional dimension. It's not that such things have not been happening—the late Gen Joshi, for instance, was in the US earlier this year—but now the arrangement would get formalised.

Assuming that India does not wish to be a military super power like the US (the US will not enable it to become one, in any case) what does greater service-to-service imply? Possibly, joint action in third countries under the UN aegis, should the need arise. However, given the American track record in Somalia, for instance, it is a moot point whether American experience in such matters is worth emulating. As it happens, the Indians did a much better job in Somalia than the Americans. For all this, the compensation paid for an Indian soldier's supreme sacrifice in such UN exercises is a fraction of what is paid for an American soldier's death. Has India demanded compensation parity before entering into a defence agreement with the US?

In these matters, the Indian attitude has been in sharp contrast to that of the US. The Americans usually do their homework very carefully: their Congress discusses each such agreement before they are signed think-tanks give in their inputs, a battery of lawyers study legal aspects and so on. India, on the other hand, is quick to jubilate about signing agreements and repents at leisure when the drawbacks show up.

This becomes more apparent in commercial agreements. The US, for example, wanted counter-guarantee for power plants set up by American companies and went

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about with determination to get them. India agreed to provide the guarantees and realised later the stupidity of guaranteeing return on commercial projects.

When Mr Rom Brown comes in here, accompanied by 20-odd top American CEOs [chief executive officers], many commercial agreements are expected to be signed. It is said that the US commerce secretary hopes to sign contracts worth at lease $3 billion (the figure he reached in China). While these agreements are bound to be hailed as proof of investor interest in India, the political uncertainty in the country notwithstanding, it is doubtful if India has done as much homework.

Is New Delhi clear about what it wants from Mr Brown? Will it, for instance, ask for the removal of visa restrictions on Indian software technicians, which have been imposed in order to protect jobs for American software technicians or those from other countries, and which goes against the spirit of the new-found Indo-US cooperation? Or, will it ask the Americans to quantify the access to Indian textile and specify the areas in which this access will be made? Unlikely, because New Delhi is getting into the habit of giving without asking for something commensurate in return.

Editorial: ASEAN Membership

BK0901125295 Delhi THE PIONEER in English 9 Jan 95 p 8

[Editorial: Talk About Bilateralism"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The observation made by the Singapore Prime Minister, Mr Goh Chok Tong, that he does not foresee the Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN) accepting India as a member at least for the next decade should not come as a surprise at all. If anything, what is surprising is that this obvious and oft-repeated fact needs constant reiteration. It would take a great deal of optimism and an even greater ability to overlook both historical and geographical realities before anyone could start thinking in terms of India's entry into this regional forum in the foreseeable future. Even Mr Goh was not suggesting that a decade was the outer limit to India's wait, he was merely saying that his "crystal ball" allows him to gaze no further. Given the fact that it is only elementary politeness that has prevented leaders of ASEAN countries from bluntly saying that India has no chance of a membership, it is time we stopped working ourselves up into a frenzy, arguing whether it is a possibility or not. If for no other reason, ASEAN members are unlikely to be in a hurry to induct India into their club given the hastiness with which India had dismissed them as of no consequence in the early 60s.

This is not to suggest that India must not and cannot built considerably stronger ties, in particular those of the economic variety, with countries of the South East Asian region. In fact, logic certainly suggests that such ties are called for, and not just as means of correcting historical wrongs. Stronger ties with South East Asia are an imperative if India is to survive in a world that is increasingly being characterised by regional trading blocs and in which the Asian region is fast emerging as a major participant and perhaps the most rapidly growing one. Thus, while India must strive to create a regional trading caucus rather than waste its efforts or futile attempts to get into one that is already well entrenched, it must at the same time ensure that it works out bilateral arrangements with ASEAN member countries that minimise the damage of its not being part of the group. Efforts in that direction must clearly begin by enhancing bilateral trade and investment and there are signs that this is indeed happening.

As for Mr Goh's suggestion that India would be better off tapping on the doors of the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC), what must be borne in mind is that here too India would be treated like an outsider wanting to get in. As China has found out in its attempts to enter the World Trading Organisation, this means doing a lot that existing members may not have to, in order to secure membership.

Minister on Issuing Visas to Pakistani Nationals

BK1301011795 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0035 GMT 13 Jan 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] New Delhi has reiterated its readiness to discuss with Pakistan the reopening of the Khokrapar-Munabao checkpost to enable more convenient travel by people on both sides. The external affairs minister, Mr. Dinesh Singh, in a statement asserted India's continued commitment to promote people-to-people contact despite the obvious negativism of the Pakistani authorities. The minister said the Indian High Commission will issue short term visas without preverification on priority basis in emergency cases. Mr. Dinesh Singh said some delay in issuing visas has become unavoidable due to the deplorable decision of Pakistani Government to close the Consulate General of India in Karachi. He said the main sufferers will be the Pakistani nationals in the areas covered previously by the consulate. He said the government is, however, taking all possible measures so that visas are issued by the Indian High Commission as quickly as possible. It will also endeavor to see members of the divided families do not suffer unduly.

Commentary: Importance of Japan's Hashimoto Visit

BK1201153195 Delhi All India Radio General Overseas Service in English 1010 GMT 12 Jan 95

[Commentary by Saroj Mohanty]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The Japanese international trade and industry minister, Ryutaro Hashimoto's, visit to India last week opened a new chapter in Indo-Japanese relations. It was for the first time that the head

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of the Ministry of International Trade and Industry which controls trade and technology transfer involving a foreign country came to India since independence.

During the three-day visit, Mr. Hashimoto unveiled a seven-point action plan to promote Japanese investments in and trade with India. A recent Japanese Government white paper looked at India as one of the three top countries for Japanese aid. In fact, Japan's official aid to India touched a record high of $1.2 billion last year which in the next two years is to top the one and a half billion mark. Japan has to identify India as a potential partner for economic cooperation. Mr. Hashimoto, explaining the reasons for Japan's increased interest in India, referred to India's successful reforms, its huge middle class consumer market, technological sophistication, and the country's strategic location linking Asia and Europe. He announced that the Japanese Government would establish credit lines up to $1 billion for two years. The other components of the seven-point action plan to strengthen bilateral economic ties includes lower insurance rates for Japanese investments and trade in India, inclusion of India in Japan's [word indistinct] plan to support environment friendly projects, opening of the second office of the Japanese External Trade Organization in Bombay, and Japan's participation in the 12th engineering trade fair in 1997 as a partner country.

Coinciding with Mr. Hashimoto's visit, a Japanese business delegation participated in the Confederation of Indian Industries centenary celebrations in Calcutta. With the end of the Cold War, the world has moved away from a politics driven order to one set by economic forces. This has been best exemplified in no other region than Asia, and India under the leadership of Prime Minister Mr. P.V. Narasimha Rao has embarked on a path of economic liberalization. Three years of reforms have awakened the world's interest in India's vast potential both as a production base and a huge consumer market. Seen in this perspective, Mr. Hashimoto's visit was of added significance. Although there has been some presence from Japanese multinationals like Suzuki and Marubeni in India, Mr. Hashimoto's maiden visit is the first direct signal by the Japanese Government that time has come now to view India for serious investment options.

The areas that are most likely to see direct Japanese investments are smelter projects, ship-breaking units, power, telecom, textiles, metals, food processing industry, color TV, and audio equipment, chemicals, and the automobile sector. Negotiations are on between the two countries for a bilateral investment guarantee agreement to boost investors confidence and stimulate flow of Japanese investments and technology into India.

Although Japan is India's second largest trade partner after the U.S., its trade has stagnated at less than $4 billion a year. Both the countries have expressed desire for boosting their existing bilateral trade which is neither commensurate with Japan's own potentials nor cognizant of India's own potential. A spurt in Japanese investments was seen first in the first half of 1988 with the entry of firms in the automobile sector, but the momentum was weakened in the second half of 1993 when India received only $35 million of investments as against $122 million in 1992. The Japanese side blamed it on the deep recession in the economy that had put overseas investments on halt. They now say that that phase is over and Japanese companies have renewed plans for investments abroad and India has become a focus country. But, the fact is that Japan does not want to be left behind the U.S. and the European Union as far as India is concerned. The appreciation of the yen has forced Japanese companies to look for areas like India where labor costs are low and cost of production is cheaper. Besides the rising production cost in South Asia, the implications of a resurgent China and its persistent trade problems with the U.S. have prompted Japan to reconsider how it can benefit from India's economic potential. The Japanese external trade minister's visit has put an official stamp of appreciation of India's economic reforms and acted as a powerful signal to the Japanese private sectors that it can no longer stay away without getting involved with Indian economy.

Finnish Joint Commission Discuss Investment

BK1201075795 Delhi Doordarshan Television network in English 1630 GMT 11 Jan 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] New Delhi has invited from Finland investment in power, oil exploration, petrochemicals and food processing sectors. Invitation was extended by Commerce Minister Mr. Pranab Mukherji at the India-Finnish Joint Commission meeting in New Delhi today. Mr. Mukherji said there is an immense potential for bilateral trade between the two countries and it should be exploited. The deputy prime minister of of Finland, Mr. Pertti Salolainen, who led his country's delegation at the meeting said India is on the threshold of a new economic era and Finland is putting greater emphasis on the Asian region than ever before.

During his meeting with the power, Mr. N.K.P. Salve, the visiting dignitary evinced interest in power development in India. The Finland deputy prime minister said his country has specialized in environment friendly power generation techniques in both thermal and hydroelectric sectors. Mr. Salve said India will welcome any technology of power generation which does not have to depend on oil imports.

Editorial Views PRC Uranium Purchase

BK1301025995 Delhi THE ECONOMIC TIMES in English 7 Jan 95 p 6

[Editorial: "Tell U.S. Where It Gets Off"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The commercial contract with China for the supply of low enriched uranium (LEU) to

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fuel the two 160 mw light water reactors of the Tarapur Atomic Power Station (TAPS) is very significant for two reasons. One, it helps to steer the future of TAPS from an uncertain course to a well planned technological strategy of running it optimally for its remaining life of 10-odd years. Two, it lays the basis for a new chapter in Sino-Indian cooperation and a fresh source for nuclear technology, free from shackles imposed by the west on the pretext of nuclear non-proliferation. Since TAPS went on stream in 1969, it was fuelled with with US-supplied LEU under a 30-year bilateral agreement, complete with International Atomic Energy Agency's safeguards till the US reneged on the agreement following India's 1974 Pokharan explosion and stopped fuel supply in 1979. France stepped in to resume the fuel supply in 1981. But as a result of a newfound loyalty to the nuclear non-proliferation treaty (NPT), France has refused supply of LEU after the expiry of the agreement in October 1993 without 'full-scope safeguards'. These safeguards are tantamount to the NPT itself which India is opposed to in principle. So identifying an alternative source of LEU for TAPS became imperative. And the current contract is the result of that two-year old exercise.

Except for TAPS, natural uranium has been the mainstay of the Indian nuclear programme and India does not yet have a largescale enrichment facility. The mixed uranium-plutonium oxide (MOX) fuel route provides an attractive alternative to get around the problem. But loading MOX is to be done gradually and in its initial phase at least 2-3 per cent enriched uranium is required. Chinese LEU would help to tide over this early phase. Also, by then reprocessing of TAPS fuel would have begun and the indigenous enrichment facility should have also attained commercial scale. From this perspective, the government would do well to extend full support to the exploitation of the MOX route, a technology that is increasingly finding favour in Japan and Europe.

In principle, however, China can be a long-term supplier of, LEU because, unlike the west, it has not insisted on full-scope safeguards. And it is important that India strengthens cooperation in this area with China to end dependence on the west for sourcing strategic technologies. The US is certainly not going to be too happy about this contract with China. But it is time India told the US where it gets off. Coming, as it does, on the eve of the visit of US defence secretary William Perry, the Sino-Indian deal does precisely that.

Human Rights: Prison Reform Advocated

95AS0140B JAIPUR RAJASTHAN PATRIKA in Hindi 13 Dec p 8

[Editorial: "Human Rights"]

[FBIS Translated Text] It has been recommended in a workshop on police, jail and human rights sponsored by the Commonwealth Human Rights Organization that it is very important to provide human rights training to officers responsible for law enforcement. This recommendation of the workshop is extremely significant because the problem of human rights abuse is greater in Commonwealth countries as compared to other countries. These countries have become independent after centuries of slavery and they have inherited the colonialist administrative structure. During colonialist rule, the police were given extra training in repressionary measures in the name of law and order. Even political prisoners were subjected to inhuman tortures. Instead of adopting a reformatory approach with prisoners, the principle of terrorizing them was adopted. There was no place for the protection of human rights in colonialist rule. This sequence of events is still continuing in developing countries. Although jail reform has been started, the question of the protection of prisoners' human rights still stands. Stories of police brutality are heard frequently. Inhuman treatment of the indicted in police stations is common. Many deaths occur in police custody due to inhuman tortures. In this context there is a complete lack of sensitivity among police officers and the administration. From this viewpoint, there is the need for a fundamental change in the training program for police and jail authorities, which is still continuing according to old methods. A desirable change is also expected in the approach of administrative officials and politicians. This is only possible when a workable and meaningful initiative is taken in the direction of generating adequate awareness regarding human rights.

At least the minimum standards set by the United Nations regarding the treatment of prisoners must be implemented. Even if developing countries are not able to achieve that level immediately, at least thought can be given to implemententing them with some modifications; but this work is not possible without political will and administrative sensitivity. A few public representatives should be associated with jails and the police administration. This can also be done via committees composed of a few responsible individuals. The members of these citizen committees should have the right to inspect jails and police stations at any time, so that they may inform the administration regarding prevailing conditions, and give the proper suggestions for improvement. The members of these committees should also have the freedom to talk to the prisoners and the indicted. There are large numbers of prisoners whose cases are pending in court. These undertrials are forced to suffer sentences for years. Often the judgement is in their favor and they are acquitted. They suffer sentences for nothing. It has been suggested in the workshop that separate quarters be built for such people. It is necessary that the undertrials' cases be dealt with on a priority basis. Until desired improvements are made in the judicial process, another workable approach will need to be found to protect the human rights of undertrials, so that they do not have to suffer the tribulations of prison for extended durations.

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Iran

Deputy Foreign Minister Views Regional Issues

NC1301121395 Tehran JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI in Persian 8 Jan 95 p 14

["Exclusive" interview with Deputy Foreign Minister Mohammad Hashemi-Rafsanjani by unidentified correspondent in Tehran on 7 January]

[FBIS Translated Text] [JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI] As you know, the ambassador of the Islamic Republic of Iran to Bahrain left Manama in the heat of the crisis and returned to Tehran. Incoming reports from Western sources indicate he was expelled by the Bahraini regime. Are these reports correct?

[Hashemi] This was not the case. The Bahrainis have not expelled any member of the staff of the Islamic Republic's embassy there. The ambassador's return was in connection with a seminar on the Persian Gulf that is held occasionally in Iran. Torkabadi, the ambassador of the Islamic Republic of Iran to Bahrain, came to Tehran merely to attend the seminar and returned to Bahrain afterward. The Bahrainis took no measures against Islamic Iran in relation with their domestic incidents, because there was no reason for such measures to be taken. The crisis in Bahrain was a domestic issue for Bahrain.

[JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI] The reports on the "expulsion of the ambassador" came after accusations by some Bahraini officials against the Islamic Republic of Iran in relation with the crisis there.

[Hashemi] Yes. But our ambassador was not expelled. The Bahrainis summoned their ambassador from Tehran for some political consultations. Our ambassador was not expelled from Bahrain. He is in Manama now.

[JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI] We were informed that you will leave for Kuwait on Monday [9 January]. What is the objective behind this visit?

[Hashemi] Our trip to Kuwait continues visits by various officials from both countries. We consider the Persian Gulf to be an extremely sensitive and strategic area of great economic importance. The neighboring countries in the Persian Gulf are important countries. Having healthy relations based on mutual understanding and good neighborliness has always been important and vital for us for the sake of regional security. Kuwait too is naturally not exempt from this rule. In the past there were regular contacts between the deputies of the two countries' Foreign Ministries. The forthcoming visit should be examined within this framework. During this visit we will discuss mutual relations and regional cooperation with Kuwaiti officials.

[JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI] The next question is in relation with the Persian Gulf. As deputy foreign minister of the Islamic Republic of Iran you met the Saudi ambassador in Tehran last week. Can you please tell us why this meeting took place and what topics were discussed?

[Hashemi] Yes. This visit took place at the invitation of the Foreign Ministry. During the visit views were exchanged on important regional issues. The topics we discussed were: The importance of the Persian Gulf; regional differences being to no one's benefit; the need for regional countries to safeguard regional security; the unfavorable nature of our relations with Saudi Arabia, relations that should be elevated to a logical level and deserve to be transformed from transitory relations to relations of long-term and strategic cooperation; and the many things the two countries have in common, things that should see the Islamic Republic of Iran and Saudi Arabia having more extensive cooperation, particularly in international organizations such as the [Islamic] Conference Organization and on other forums. Views are similar on most of these points. We told the Saudi ambassador that Iranian-Saudi relations should not be transitory and should not be limited to issues concerning the Hajj pilgrimage. This meeting was among the various briefings we hold occasionally with the heads of the various foreign missions in the country. There was no specific reason for this meeting.

[JOHMURI-YE ESLAMI] After Bahrain, Kuwait, and Saudi Arabia, we would like to ask a question about Iraq. How are our current relations with the Baghdad regime?

[Hashemi] Diplomatically speaking, our relations with Iraq are on the charge d'affaires level. But because of the current UN sanctions against Iraq, the only type of relations the Islamic Republic of Iran can have with Iraq are relations based on humanitarian grounds. Iraq does not have good relations with any of its neighbors. What the Iraqis did led to two wars against their neighbors and to an atmosphere of mistrust. We feel deep concern for the Iraqi nation because of what is happening to it. The Iraqi Government should truly accept the UN resolutions and observe them and recognize the rights of its neighbors. We believe the reason for Iraq's absence of relations with its neighbour is the atmosphere of mistrust that has been created. The Iraqis are to blame for creating this atmosphere of pessimism and lack of trust with their actions, which led to foreign forces entering the Persian Gulf. They are to blame for the situation that has been created in Iraq and for Iraq's position on the international scene. We hope the right conditions will be created in the region so that relations among all its countries can improve and all rights can be recognized.

[JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI] For a month now a bloody and destructive war has been going on between the aggressive Russian forces and the Chechens. As deputy foreign minister of the Islamic Republic of Iran, how do you assess this war?

[Hashemi] We are truly sorry to see the conflict the Russians have started against the Chechens, especially as experience has shown that military means and massacres

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are not the correct solution and do not yield favorable results. Many lives are being sacrificed. Much is being destroyed and many people are being left homeless. Yet aggressive forces are achieving none of their political objectives. The Russians themselves have many experiences of this. From the outset of the Chechen crisis we said that if the Russians have any problems with a country or even with a region in their own territory, they should solve these problems through peaceful means. Today we see the world agreeing with this Iranian point of view on the Chechen crisis. We are truly concerned about the Chechen crisis and believe that if it continues with the same intensity, it will spread to other parts of the Caucasus. The Caucasus is a tense area and such conflicts will only aggravate the crisis.

Opposition Leader Views Current Situation

AU1201201695 Frankfurt/Main FRANKFURTER RUNDSCHAU in German 12 Jan 95 p 5

[Interview with Mehdi Basarghan, leader of the Iranian Liberation Movement, by Navid Kermani in Tehran; date not given: "Cut Off the Branches To Dry Up the Roots"—spelling of Iranian names as published]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Kermani] In what condition is your party today?

[Basarghan] The state considers us to be illegal. The Party Commission has issued a notice to us that our application for founding a party was rejected. We protested this decision, saying that we had not applied for permission but that, according to the Party Law, we are already an existing party and want to be recognized as such. According to the Party Law, only a court has the power to declare a party illegal. This has not been done, therefore we are legal. Our followers are subjected to many different kinds of harassment, in particular also in the provincial towns. One person may be pressured by the government where he works, another one may be confronted with some made-up accusation.

A teacher has been accused of getting involved with a female student, for which they bugged his telephone, recorded his conversations, and then forged some; they simply put his voice together with the girl's voice. They harass primarily the simple members. In prison they said that they cut off the branches of the tree so that the roots dry up. This is precisely what they are doing.

[Kermani] What are your activities like?

[Basarghan] From time to time our Politburo holds a meeting, that is all. There are no longer any plenary assemblies. We are not permitted to publish our books and our magazine. If they catch someone who produces copies of our announcements, he is arrested. However, they leave people like Ebrahim Yazdi, Hashen Sadr, and myself alone; they have other ways of dealing with us. Now and then we draw up a statement, but that is difficult. For instance, we cannot distribute the statements by mail, because either they are not accepted in the first place or the addressee gets into trouble. Thus, we can only distribute them among ourselves, 100, 150 copies, no more. Sometimes a few of our members manage to publish something in independent Iranian magazines.

[Kermani] How can someone be politically active in Iran today, outside the framework established by the system?

[Basarghan] First of all, it must be said that there is no freedom even within the framework, as can be seen in the case of Ayatollah Montazeri (Khomeyni's designated successor, who had to resign in 1988 after he protested against human rights violations in Iran—the editor), for instance. The smallest movement, the smallest gathering of people, even a strike by workers or students is forcefully suppressed out of fear that it might spread, as events in Ghazwin a few months ago demonstrated. As is known, the issue there was a new distribution of the provinces. Even local government officials and the Friday preacher were on the side of the people. Except for the Friday preacher, they dismissed everyone. Many were killed.

[Kermani] Reportedly, 3,000 to 4,0000 people were killed there. Do you have any information about this?

[Basarghan] They executed a great number of people, but I do not have any definite figures. What the people are allowed to do is express their opinion privately, simply because the regime cannot prevent that. In buses, taxis, in lines in front of the place where you get sugar, people are criticizing the regime; they complain, rail, and lament.

Over the past few years independent magazines have been permitted, but they have to struggle against all conceivable difficulties. Just to mention the most simple instrument: All papers and magazines depend on allocation of paper by the Culture Ministry, which is, however, often refused to independent publications. The price of paper on the free market, however, is so high that, in fact, they cannot work. Then editorial offices are visited by groups of thugs and devastated, as happened to the magazine KIYAN after it published an interview with me. Even though it was not the government itself that did this but a group of Hizballahis ("Followers of God," name for the followers of Khomeyni's teachings—the editor], they must have been instigated by someone. Of course, the vandals were not prosecuted.

Recently they arrested and tortured some authors and editors under the pretense that they had enabled counterrevolutionary forces to publish articles. Revolution leader Khamene'i himself has complained several times about how impudent we are in criticizing and verbally abusing them on the one hand and claiming, on the other, that there is no freedom. We answered: Yes, you are right to the extent that we are permitted to express our opinion now and then. But you have destroyed our links with the people. You do not permit us to publish anything; you have separated our followers from us. For

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the other opposition movements and parties it is just the same. When individuals write something, they do not seem to be bothered. On the other hand, they are extremely sensitive when they see that people get together, that an association forms that is not under state supervision.

[Kermani] How do you assess your support among the population?

[Basarghan] You have to ask others about that, not me. When I say that people have profound sympathetic feelings for us, this may be a lie.

[Kermani] Are you never mobbed in the streets? Do you not have any problems?

[Basarghan] The problem I have is preventing them from doing everything for me. When I go shopping, ride a taxi, or take my shaver to the repair shop, I can hardly get people to accept money from me. If I am verbally attacked in the street at all, then this comes from members of the upper class whose property was seized or whose brother or husband was killed during the revolution. They accuse me of being responsible for all evil. They say: You gave us the mullah regime; we trusted you when we supported the revolution—why did you let the mullahs cheat you.

However, even those who complain about us do not accuse us personally. They criticize our political position during the revolution, but they do not abuse us personally. A friend said: We are eating the bread of their evilness. The mullahs have all lied so much that we are respected for our honesty alone.

[Kermani] How broad do you think the regime's support among the population is?

[Basarghan] As far as we can see, the regime may be relying on not even 5 percent. Even among the ministers, functionaries, directors, and clergy there are people who are against it and do not support they system. Many of them apologize to us when they meet us. Not just a few are internally advocating reforms; others benefit from the conditions, they have been given houses and other things. The scope of corruption is breathtaking, in particular in the judiciary. There bribery is quite open. Such people do not oppose the regime. Others are watched, so they are forced to pretend they agree. If someone truly supports the system from noble motives, he is not a follower of Rafsanjani or Khamene'i but of Khomeyni.

[Kermani] Do you think that the system can be reformed?

[Basarghan] So far, there are no signs that reforms are wanted. Just recently a letter was written to Rafsanjani, entitled: "Mr. Rafsanjani, do not repeat the Shah's mistakes." The letter also refers to a talk that we—Ahmad Sabaqian, Yazdi, and I—had with Rafsanjani when we were still represented in parliament. When we complained about the lack of freedom, he interrupted us and said: When the Shah gave us freedom, we drove him out of the country. We will not repeat this mistake.

In the letter Rafsanjani is implored: Do not commit the same mistake as the Shah. The Shah relied on reports by officials around him without realizing how unstable the situation really was. He realized it too late.

However, the mullahs do not even consider changing anything. Our advice has no effect. It is extremely surprising that the regime has managed to endure, considering its arrogance and self-righteousness. From the Koran we know that the Egyptian pharaoh perished because of his own incompetence and self-righteousness, like so many other dictators. This will also happen to them. This seems to be a law of nature: They must go so far, commit so many evil deeds, that they perish because of it.

However, when we supported the revolution of 1979 we hoped for a better, a great future. We knew that our country is rich in natural resources, that it has a great intellectual and economic potential. We knew that there is a nation that continues to exist and that is constant. But now, if the mullahs step down—one does not even want to think of what would happen. Everywhere in the country, in every corner, there are people who are simmering their own soup. In one corner there is Kurdistan, in the other Azerbaijan, and in the south Khuzestan. Complete disintegration is threatening.

[Kermani] You believe that the necessary change can be brought about only by a complete collapse of the system?

[Basarghan] Yes. However, if someone told me that I should take that over, I would say: I cannot do that. Because if they go, there is no realistic option at the moment. There is no alternative. Who could take over? This is what is so painful. Should there be a second Afghanistan? In order to ensure their continued existence, they have done everything to make sure that there is no alternative to them. The nationalists had to go, regardless of whether or not they had religious motives. The communists had to go, the Mojahedin-e Khalq had to go, and all the others too, so that in the end the only solution is the continued existence of these guys at the levers of power. They have not allowed the people to breathe. They have nipped all efforts toward freedom in the bud. The prospects for the future are extremely frightening. Extremely.

[Kermani] Everyone wonders....

[Basarghan] ...what is going to happen? Usually, I set two conditions when I am interviewed. One is that I am not asked what is going to happen. I do not know. God knows; I am a Muslim. I hope for God's mercy. All factors and signs indicate nothing good. I do not dare even predict what this might be.

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U.S. Allegations on Sale of Iraqi Oil Rejected

LD1301094795 Tehran IRNA in English 0923 GMT 13 Jan 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] United Nations HQ., New York, Jan. 13, IRNA—The Iranian mission at the United Nations Thursday [12 January] brushed aside the allegations made by U.S. envoy at the Security Council on the sale of Iraqi oil through Iran, terming it as Washington's propaganda campaign against Iran.

During the Thursday session of the Security Council, the U.S. envoy Madeleine Albright claimed that the Baghdad regime violated the Security Council sanctions and sold its oil at a cheap price of five dollars per barrel through Iran.

The press release expressed surprise over the statements of the U.S. ambassador "reportedly alleging that there exist an arrangement with Iran for the sale of Iraqi oil in violation of relevant Security Council resolutions."

Rejecting the allegation categorically, it said, "unduly involving Iran in the sale of Iraqi oil serves only the propaganda campaign of the United States against Iran while doing disservice to the efforts of the Security Council."

The mission added that Iran, in compliance with relevant Security Council resolutions, has reported to the United Nations and the Security Council Sanctions Committee on December 15, 1994 and June 24, 1994, of the measures it has taken including the impoundment of several cargo vessels in and around the Persian Gulf and Arvand Rud to enforce the ban against the sale of Iraqi oil.

"Such strict enforcement measures have put a significant burden on the Islamic Republic of Iran which it is prepared to continue absorbing as long as the sanctions against Iraq have not been lifted."

Military Official Repeats NPT Support

LD1201174395 Tehran IRNA in English 1719 GMT 12 Dec 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Jan. 12, (IRNA)—A military official at the general headquarters of the armed forces in Tehran today said that any military provocation against Iran's security and interest will be dealt with by a strong response which will entail the enemy's regret.

In a reaction to the threats recently posed by the Zionist regime, the military official said that the Islamic Republic of Iran always supports establishment of security and stability in the region and condemns any expansionist objectives or tension.

Referring to the expansionist desire of the Zionist regime in the region, the official said that Israel tries to cover up the activities of its nuclear installations through accusing the regional states of gaining access to nuclear arms.

The official said that the Zionist regime is trying to create an atmosphere of suspicion against the Islamic Republic of Iran in order to accelerate the arms race in the region and prepare ground for further sale of the U.S. weapons in the region.

The official reiterated Iranian commitment to the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty and added that the armed forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran were ready to respond decisively and strongly to any aggressive move against Iranian territory.

IRNA on 'Zionist Vilification' Campaign

LD1201141395 Tehran IRNA in English 1331 GMT 12 Jan 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Athens, Jan. 12, IRNA—The ongoing incitement campaign by Israel and allied Zionist circles against the Islamic Republic of Iran conceals behind it a number of evil goals.

First and foremost, the Zionist state is keen to divert world attention from her huge nuclear arsenal which, experts say, constitutes a real mortal threat to the entire Arab-Muslim region, from Morocco in the west to Pakistan in the east. It is now common knowledge that Israel not only has stockpiled as many as 300 nuclear weapons and their delivery systems, including the F15-I fighter planes, but has developed an awesome arsenal of chemical and biological arsenal.

With her huge inventory of conventional and unconventional arms of mass destruction, the Zionist state has actually expanded her strategic domain of influence to include all Arab countries in the Middle East and North Africa as well as those Muslim countries on the fringes of the Middle East such as Pakistan.

In light, the imposition of Israeli military and geopolitical hegemony in this vast expanse is becoming an established Israeli strategy.

The recent Israeli insinuation about Iran's alleged nuclear capability is therefore intended to distract attention from Israel's real aspiration for regional hegemony and domination.

Furthermore, the Israeli threat of taking military action against Iranian nuclear powerplants, which ought to be taken very seriously, is aimed at, inter alia, intimidating other Muslim countries into thinking twice before deciding to harness nuclear technology in economic development.

In other words, the Zionist state would like to acquire the status of the "sole master and bully boy" of the Middle East. But, to Israel's consternation, the Islamic Republic refuses adamantly to be subservient to Zionist hegemony and blackmail. Hence, the recent vilification campaign against Iran.

Moreover, Israel strives to evade or, at least, alleviate a growing international pressure to sign the Nuclear Non-Proliferation (NPT) Treaty. Indeed, it was no coincidence that the recent leaking by Israeli sources of "intelligence disinformation" to THE NEW YORK TIMES, a

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perpetual mouthpiece for the Zionist state, comes only a few months before the renewal of NPT ratification is due.

Early this week, the Israeli-induced "Iran scare" overshadowed other important topics during the talks between Israeli political and military leaders and visiting U.S. Defense Secretary William Perry.

Perry was reportedly supposed to press Israel to sign the NPT after Egypt made it clear that it was not going to renew its signature on the treaty unless Israel does likewise first.

According to some reports, the Egyptians even went so far as linking the success of the entire so-called peace process between the Zionist and the Arab regimes to stripping Israel of her nuclear arsenal.

In reaction to Egyptian "nagging" over Israeli nuclear weapons, Israel has reportedly threatened to instruct the powerful Jewish lobby to press for cuts in American aid to Egypt, estimated at drls 2.2 billion a year, and considered vital to the stability of the pro-American regime of Husni Mubarak. However, this consideration has lately been in collision with a growing Egyptian and Arab awareness for the geopolitical threat posed by Israel's nuclear arsenal.

In fact, some Arab observers have suggested that the Israeli nuclear threat was a major topic of discussion between the leaders of Syria, Saudi Arabia and Egypt during the recent summit confernce in Cairo.

Agricultural Investment Program Sums Noted

LD1201202195 Tehran IRNA in English 1751 GMT 12 Jan 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Orumiyeh, W. Azarbaijan Prov., Jan. 12, (IRNA)—Some rials. 220 billion is to be allocated for increasing production, job creation and decreasing agricultural losses during the Second Five-Year Development Plan, deputy chief of Mostazafan and Janbazan Foundation, Alaeddin Ayatollah Zadeh, said here Thursday [12 January].

The figure is to be spent in processing industries, packaging, farming, gardening, poultry and animal breeding, Ayatollah Zadeh who is here to inspect the units affiliated with the foundation, said.

He added regarding dlrs. 5 billion annual dam ages to agricultural products the foundation strategy is focused on decreasing agricultural wastes through implementing packaging projects and finding new foreign markets.

He added that dlrs. 5 million will be invested in the country's free trade zones in a bid to fulfill agricultural needs of the southeastern Asian countries and creating new markets for domestic agricultural and livestock products.

Key Steel Plant Records 61.4 Production Rise

LD1101202895 Tehran IRNA in English 2009 GMT 11 Jan 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Isfahan, Jan. 11, (IRNA)—Over 2.5 million tons of steel was produced at the giant Mobarakeh steel complex this year, showing a 61.4 percent rise compared to last year.

A report, released by the complex on Wednesday [11 January] on the occasion of the second anniversary of its starting operation, indicated that 215,000 tons of steel was exported to 11 countries this year, compared to last year's exports which totalled 135,000 tons.

The countries which brought Mobarakeh steel were China, Italy, Thailand, India, South Korea, Britain, Belgium, Kuwait, United Arab Emirates and Taiwan.

Manafi on EPO's Plans To Cut Pollution

LD1201093395 Tehran IRNA in English 0650 GMT 12 Jan 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Jan. 12, IRNA—Legislative obstacles have to be removed in order to combat pollution which is seriously threatening public health, said vice-president and chief of the Environment Protection Organization (EPO), Dr. Hadi Manafi.

Manfi, in an interview with IRAN NEWS printed Thursday [12 January], said a new anti-pollution law was approved last month and directives for its implementation are expected to be approved by the cabinet within the next two months.

He added that according the new law, every generating activity which pollutes the air, including vehicles, factories, workshops, power plants, commercial and residential area must adhere to EPO standards. He further said that failure to comply, will result in vehicles being removed from service and production suspension at factories. Manafi specified that 65 percent of the pollution in Tehran is produced by vehicular exhaust, 24 percent is generated by industries and service centers and 11 percent is attributable to home water heaters.

He added that the officials concerned have drawn up plans to reduce pollution to a minimum and government departments and organization, particularly the municipality, must cooperate with the Environment Protection Organization to implement this. He continued by saying "a number of projects to purify the environment are being implemented in large cities such as Tehran, Esfahan, Shiraz, Tabriz and Arak, which are badly polluted." With this law in hand, he said, all previous hurdles that prevented the government from acting against violators of environment standards will be effectively eliminated.

Meanwhile, Manafi revealed that a 300-billion-rial budget has been allocated to EPO project to perform the law. Of course, he added that this project requires more

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funding but, due to limitation in the state income, the project should be performed within the framework of the budget.

"Japan and Germany have been cooperating with us to reduce air and water pollution specially in Tehran and we hope the World Bank will assist us in improving the quality of air in polluted towns," the vice-president commented. Also, he added, Iran is going to execute a project with the cooperation of the Central Asian states in the Caspian Sea area to prevent further pollution of the waterway.

Manafi noted that a similar campaign has been going on from some time ago with the cooperation of the Persian Gulf littoral states.

Environment protection does not recognize borders and all countries must cooperate to eliminate the potential for catastrophe that threatens the living environment, he added.

Survey Reveals Radio, TV More Popular Than Papers

LD1201114395 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 12 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] We now have a special report, to which we draw your attention.

[Unidentified correspondent] According to the results of a survey conducted by our country's Center for Media Studies, during the last 30 years the number of television receivers has increased by 13 times, while the number of radio receivers has tripled. Also, during the same period, press circulation has doubled. These findings show that our people, in their pursuit of news and information, pay most attention to the oral and visual media.

The research also shows that at present, 560 newspapers and journals are published with a circulation of around 1.5 million copies. This is 26 titles per 1,000 people. Compared with some Asian countries, who have an even lower rate of literacy than Iran, these figures are very low.

A number of experts believe that with the development of radio and television networks, the press medium has lost its status. However, statistics show that in European and Asian countries, despite the presence of numerous television channels and satellite networks, the per capita consumption of press material is much higher than in Iran. [passage omitted]

Twenty-eight percent of the survey respondents said that the reason for their lack of interest in the press is that this medium does not reflect realities. Some 23 percent attributed the reason to the high price of newspapers, while 19 percent said the press deals only with superficial topics. The rest of the respondents gave the following reasons: Unattractive page lay-out and design, delay in distribution, and the monotonous and unexciting nature of the what the press prints. [passage omitted]

$150 Billion To Be Paid in Italian Insurance Dispute

LD1201201495 Tehran IRNA in English 1956 GMT 12 Jan 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Jan. 12, (IRNA)—Based on a contract to be signed soon between Iran's Bank of Commerce and a syndicate of Italian banks, Iran is to pay USD one billion to 150 Italian companies which fall under insurance contract with Italian Sache Insurance Company and with which Iran has signed agreements.

Talking to IRNA here Thursday [12 January], an informed source at Foreign Exchange and International Affairs department of the Islamic Republic Central Bank underlined that Iran would settle its finacial disputes with Italy as it did with other countries.

He said that USD one billion had been allocated to repay short-term credit which are due now or should be paid in 1995.

He said the credit would be paid to 400 Italian companies.

Kuwaiti Envoy Says Relations 'Warming'

NC1201193795 Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English 10 Jan 95 pp 1, 14

[Report by Irfan Parviz]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran—A top diplomat from Kuwait believes that his country's relations with Iran are warming and moving in the right path.

Kuwaiti Ambassador to Iran, 'Abdallah 'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Duwaykh said, "The high-level exchange of visits between the two countries are among the main reasons for the two countries improved and mutually satisfactory relations."

Al-Duwaykh, in an interview with the TEHRAN TIMES, was commenting on the current visit of Iran's First Deputy Foreign Minister Mohammad Hashemi who left for Kuwait yesterday.

Hashemi is in Kuwait at the invitation of his counterpart, Foreign Ministry Secretary Sulayman al-Shahin, for a three-day visit.

Al-Duwaykh said, "We appreciate this visit as it will pave the way for cooperation between the two countries."

He said that Hashemi, during his stay in Kuwait, is due to meet with the Emir of Kuwait, Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Jabir al-Sabah, Prime Minister Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdallah al-Salim al-Sabah and several senior officials of the Sheikhdom.

"Definitely, the visit of H.E. Mr. Hashemi will strengthen Iran-Kuwait relations," al-Duwaykh said.

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"This visit was well planned and well prepared and will pave the way for higher-level visits," the ambassador told the TEHRAN TIMES without giving any further details.

Other sources believe that an exchange visit of foreign ministers of the two countries will take place in the near future.

Hashemi's visit to Kuwait is his first since he took over the number two position in the Foreign Ministry on Feb. 13, 1994, al-Duwaykh recalled.

In the present past three Kuwaiti delegations in the economic, educational and cultural spheres have visited Iran with great success, the ambassador said.

"There is a common will to strengthen ties from both sides," the ambassador said, adding that "at the time of (my) posting to Tehran, I was assigned the duty of trying to open the doors of friendship wider during my tenure here," he said.

"Well, I'm working on this line and looking forward to exploring fresh avenues for cooperation with Iran in the trading, economic and political fields," the ambassador said.

"There are now three weekly flights by Kuwait Airways to Tehran and this itself shows the importance my country attaches to Iran," the ambassador said.

"Well, we have signed a treaty with Iran which was amended in 1991 on exports and imports which should pave the way for a smooth flow of bilateral trade," he said.

Al-Duwaykh was at the TEHRAN TIMES office along with his deputy, Fahd al-Zafiri, for lunch hosted by the management.

Commenting on Iraq's recognition of Kuwait on Nov. 10, 1994 and Baghdad's efforts to have the embargo lifted, al-Duwaykh said, "Recognition is just one step and (now) Iraq has to comply with all resolutions passed by the Security Council because of what that country tried to achieve."

Any way, all regional countries are happy with such a move which will definitely have a positive impact," the ambassador said.

Al-Duwaykh said, "We really appreciate the assistance Iran extended to Kuwait and its people during the brutal and unprovoked attack of the Iraqi regime in 1991."

"We have no hard feelings towards the Iraqi people as they were themselves victims of their government before its invasion on Kuwait," the ambassador said.

Without naming the Iraqi ruler by name al-Duwaykh said, "He is punishing the Iraqis through his unpredictable behavior."

The ambassador insisted that Kuwaiti prisoners of war be returned immediately and war reparation estimated at $40 billion be paid.

"During their seven months of occupation, the Iraqis used to transfer valuable Kuwaiti goods in 600 trailors and trucks every day," al-Duwaykh recalled.

To put 750 oil wells on fire is the worst crime committed in history by the Iraqis for they used five million tons of TNT, al-Duwaykh said.

Azerbaijani Envoy on Caspian Sea Oil Project

NC1201195695 Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English 8 Jan 95 pp 1, 14

[TEHRAN TIMES Political Desk report]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran—The ambassador to Tehran of the Republic of Azerbaijan underlined the importance of his country's relations with the Islamic Republic and said that the share given to Tehran in the Caspian Sea oil project is just a friendly gesture.

The Ambassador, Elyar Kurbanalioglu Seferli, was referring to the 5 percent share Azerbaijan gave to Iran from its 20 percent share in an agreement it signed last Sept. 20 with a Western consortium for the exploration of three oil wells in the Caspian Sea.

Without mentioning names, Seferli said there were certain countries who did not like the deal between Iran and Azerbaijan. He said, "It was a friendly and sincere gesture made by President Geydar Aliyev for his personal friend, President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani."

"We attach more importance to our relations with Iran than any other country," Seferli said in an interview with the TEHRAN TIMES.

"Iran is our neighbor and we have historical, cultural and religious relations with the Islamic Republic of Iran," the ambassador told the TEHRAN TIMES.

"Of course," he said, "the relations should be based on mutual interest and respect."

A writer-turned-into-diplomat, Seferli said that the exchange of high-level visits between the two countries is a guarantee for better and sound relations.

He singled out the recent visit of Majlis Speaker, 'Ali Akbar Nateq-Nuri, to Baku saying "It opened fresh avenues for the two countries to cooperate."

Seferli so far has written 30 books which are taught in high schools and universities. His books are on Azeri literature and history.

He also studied Iranian literature and believes that Ferdowsi (940 to 1020 A.D.) is one of the most important pillars of world literature.

Seferli said that the Azeris attach great importance to the Iranian leader and recalled that during the visit of

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President Rafsanjani to Baku there were unprecedented crowds who turned out to receive him. He said the 20 kilometers of road between the airport and Baku city was lined with enthusiastic people who came to receive the Iranian president.

Sierra Leone Aims To Improve Cooperation

LD1301102695 Tehran IRNA in English 0936 GMT 13 Jan 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Jan. 13, IRNA—Iran and Sierra Leone Thursday [2 January] called for bolstering of mutual ties and cooperation with regards to the existing potentials of the two countries.

The call was made during the meeting of the visiting Sierra Leonean Minister of Marine Resources Komba S. Mondeh and the Iranian Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati.

Referring to the rapid industrial progress in Iran, and the potentials of Sierra Leone, Mondeh, who arrived here Sunday on a five-day official visit, called for expansion of Tehran-Freetown cooperation especially in fisheries and agricultural sector. He expressed pleasure with the result of his talks in Tehran and predicted a bright prospect for the future of mutual ties. Mondeh outlined the latest developments in Africa in general and in Sierra Leone in particular for Foreign Minister Velayati.

Elaborating on Iran's policies on expansion of ties and cooperation with the African countries, Velayati referred to Iran's experience and the improvement of ityhkifgery [as received] and agricultural sectors as suitable grounds for Tehran-Freetown cooperation.

Austrian Minister, Envoy Discuss Cooperation

LD1201213195 Tehran IRNA in English 2018 GMT 12 Jan 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Vienna, Jan. 12, IRNA—Austrian Trade Minister, Wolfgang Schuessel, and Iran's ambassador to Vienna, Mehdi Mohtashami, discussed bilateral relations, as well as expansion of trade and industrial ties.

During a meeting here Thursday [12 January], Schuessel, who is also the Austrian head of joint Iran-Austrian Technical Cooperation Commission, expressed his gratitude with bilateral trade and economic relations and added that the volume of trade between the two countries could further be expanded through joint activities.

He also expressed hope that the fourth Iran-Austrian Commission, due to be held this year, would create further opportunities for bilateral relations.

Mohtashami, informing the Austrian minister on Iran's economic and industrial situation, and referring to agreements reached between the states on rescheduling of Iran's debt to Austria, stressed on Tehran's readiness for expansion of ties with Vienna.

Experts To Cultivate Potatoes in Turkmenistan

LD1201145495 Tehran IRNA in English 1249 GMT 12 Jan 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Mashhad, Khorasan Prov. Jan. 12, IRNA—Iranian agricultural experts from Khorasan Province are to cultivate potatoes on 500 hectares of farmlands in Turkmenistan.

The agricultural cooperation between Turkmenistan and Khorasan Province of Iran is in accordance with a protocol signed between the two sides during a visit last week to Mashhad of the Turkmen deputy agriculture minister.

The province is also to export 20,000 tons of potatoes as well as improved corn seeds to Turkmenistan, the deputy chief of the provincial agriculture department said.

Setting up an agricultural research center and 10 nurseries for growing young plants in Turkmenistan by Iranian experts are among other points agreed upon by the two sides.

A team of experts from Khorasan's agriculture department is due to visit Ashgabat next week in order to make arrangements for execution of the protocol.

Pakistan

Reportage on Visit by U.S. Defense Secretary Perry

Media Roundup

BK1301121595

[FBIS Editorial Report] U.S. Defense Secretary Perry concluded his visit to Pakistan on 12 January. The Pakistani and U.S. Governments decided to revive the Consultative Group to discuss defense cooperation. A Foreign Office spokesman said "the revival of the Consultative Group reflects the U.S. desire to revive its old relations with Pakistan." [Islamabad Radio Urdu] Defense Minister Mirani characterized the visit as "informative and very useful." [Islamabad Radio Urdu]

Follows a brief survey of commentary and editorials from media covered by Bangkok Bureau for 12-13 January: The media generally praised the revival of the Consultative Group, however, it continued to express reservations about the "even-handed" U.S. approach to India and Pakistan and the state of relations.

A commentary carried by Islamabad Radio Pakistan in English on 12 January felt Perry's "just concluded visit" had "advanced the shared perception of the two countries and might prove a milestone" on the way "to new dimensions of friendship and cooperation." Islamabad PAKISTAN in Urdu published an editorial on 12 January which noted that "efforts are being made to revive the old relations." It urged the Pakistani Government to "explore all avenues and continue with our quiet diplomacy." It concluded: "If the United States adopts and even-handed

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approach in relation to South Asia, then it should be considered a good change." Lahore JANG in Urdu, a moderate newspaper, published on 12 January an editorial which noted that "no practical proof is forthcoming to substantiate the U.S. claim that it wants to have an even-handed approach in its relations with India and Pakistan," but felt that the revival of the Consultative Group "is a matter of satisfaction." An editorial in the 12 January issue of Islamabad KHABRAIN in Urdu "instantly" welcomed Perry's "assurances" to "adopt an even-handed approach toward Pakistan and India," but also could not "resist saying that the United States had made some top-level assurances in the past as well, but practically, the U.S. strategy was motivated by short-term benefits." Islamabad THE NEWS in English on 13 January published an editorial which called the visit "an important turn in the upward movement of Pak-U.S. ties." Lahore JANG in Urdu on 13 January published an editorial which concluded Perry's visit "has yielded good results." An editorial published in Islamabad THE PAKISTAN TIMES in English on 13 January felt the revival of the Consultative Group would "give a new lease of life to Pak-U.S. relations" but also noted "these relations should be productive for Pakistan as well."

The independent newspaper Peshawar THE FRONTIER POST in English on 12 January published an editorial which stated "it has become apparent that the U.S. side has not come with much by way of initiatives to resolve issues of major concern to Pakistan in the near future." An editorial from the prominent Shia newspaper Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English on 13 January notes that "irrespective of some seemingly positive signals" Perry's "visit does not make it clear if we are headed for a trough or a crest" in relations. It characterized the visit "like bikinis that reveal plenty but hide what is fundamental" and questioned: "What the Perry visit was in aid of?" Islamabad THE PAKISTAN OBSERVER in English on 13 January published an editorial which reported "contrary to the claims made by the government" Perry's visit "has not achieved any breakthrough in the field of Pak-U.S. relations." It adds that "it was a serious error of public relations on the part of Islamabad to raise high hopes in the wake" the visit and urged the government "to undertake a thorough revision of our links with America."

Paper: 'Even-Handed Approach' Needed

BK1301011595 Islamabad PAKISTAN in Urdu 12 Jan 95 p 4

[Editorial: "The Talks With the U.S. Defense Secretary"]

[FBIS Translated Text] During his talks with Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto and federal defense minister Aftab Shaban Mirani, U.S. Defense Secretary William Perry discussed the implications of the Pressler Amendment, cooperation between and training of the armed forces of the two countries, and the participation and role of Pakistani troops in global peacekeeping operations. The two countries agreed to expand their cooperation in those areas of the defense sector which are unaffected by the Pressler Amendment. They therefore decided to expand cooperation in the professional matters of the armed forces of the two countries. Pakistan raised the issue of the supply of defense equipment which has been already paid for. They agreed to continue talks on settling the question of returning the money paid for the F-16 planes and other defense items. William J. Perry expressed the U.S.' interest in establishing a durable peace in South Asia, and from this perspective demanded that Pakistan sign the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty [NPT], saying that a nuclear arms race is endangering peace in the region and that serious attention needs to be paid to checking it. The two countries, instead of amassing arms, should improve the condition of their people.

The United States will also ask India to sign the NPT. Acknowledging the importance of Pakistan's geographical position, Perry said that the United States attaches great importance to friendship with Pakistan. The issue of the Pressler Amendment can be resolved if Pakistan changes its attitude. On Kashmir, he was of the view that Pakistan and India should seek a solution through negotiations. The U.S. defense secretary said that the NPT should have been signed by May. However, Pakistan politely refused his proposal and reiterated its stand that it will sign the NPT if India does the same, not before that.

Some circles feel that it is not in Pakistan's interest to sign the NPT. India has amassed the most modern type of weapons. It will be in a better position even if it signs the NPT. However, if Pakistan accepts the restrictions by signing the NPT, then its defense position compared to India's will become weaker. Therefore, the NPT issue should not be taken lightly.

Pakistan's nuclear program is peaceful. It has been confirmed by the International Atomic Energy Agency as well. Using its own means of verification, the United States too has expressed satisfaction over the program's peaceful nature and its use for constructive activities. Therefore, there is no justification for insisting on signing the NPT.

Pakistan has paid in advance for the F-16 planes. Even if one goes by the normal business ethics, avoiding the supply of these planes cannot be justified. The U.S. defense secretary said that he has not come to Pakistan to hold talks on the Pressler Amendment or Pakistan-U.S. differences and his visit was primarily aimed at holding talks on security matters. Prime Minister Bhutto very categorically apprised the U.S. visitor of Pakistan's stand and told her honored guest that in no circumstances will Pakistan sign the NPT unilaterally. This will disrupt the balance of power in the region. It is a matter of Pakistan's security, and the whole nation is united on it.

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Meanwhile, some far-reaching decisions were made at the two-day extraordinary meeting of corps commanders. It was stated that no matter the amount of world pressure exerted on Pakistan, the size of the Pakistani armed forces will not be curtailed. Although there are now no Soviet forces in Afghanistan, more than 600,000 Indian troops are deployed in occupied Kashmir. In view of the Indian buildup, the armed forces of Pakistan cannot remain oblivious of their defense needs. The meeting reviewed the overall political and defense situation of the country, developments in the region, the U.S. interest in Pakistan's nuclear program and Kashmir, and the future needs of the Pakistani armed forces. It was decided that the size of the armed forces will not be reduced whatever the external demand. The damage that could have been done to Pakistani armed forces through the Pressler Amendment has already been done. If the United States wants to give us some concessions now, then we should not accept them, even if we suffer. The meeting termed as 100 percent correct the government decision that Pakistan will not sign the NPT until India does the same.

It is an undeniable fact that the United States and Pakistan were once allies. However, their relations have witnessed ups and downs. As time passed, relations were sometimes very warm or frigid. Now efforts are being made to revive the old relations. Talks should be continued until some basic issues are resolved. Defense matters and other issues are surely important; however, economic matters are no less important. Therefore, we should explore all avenues and continue with our quiet diplomacy. If the United States adopts an even-handed approach in relation to South Asia, then it should be considered a good change.

Paper: Visit Not 'Inconsequential'

BK1301082495 Islamabad THE NATION in English 13 Jan 95 p 8

[Editorial: "Working Equation With US"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] THE upshot of the Perry mission to Pakistan, in terms of tangible results, has been the revival of the Pak-US Consultative Group (CG), an obsolete forum consigned to limbo in 1990. The CG has apparently been assigned a significant role as the arbiter of some outstanding issues between the two countries, such as F-16s, spare parts, etc., apart from the general objectives set in the original agenda, but what real purpose would it serve in the post-cold war world scenario is anybody's guess. The consolation prize for Islamabad, however, is the "certificate of appreciation" issued by the US Defence Secretary, acknowledging Pakistan as the "key to peace and stability in the region" and "a model of moderation in the Islamic world". The limitations of the so-called "defence cooperation" for which the CG would function as a "think tank" are self-evident, and in the face of the Pressler law hanging around Pakistan's neck like a millstone, it would merely be a peripheral drill related to matters like joint exercises and training programmes. Nonetheless, the revival of a forum where the two countries would have the opportunity to exchange perceptions on the regional situation on a regular basis may be helpful to put across Pakistan's security concerns a little more effectively. Perhaps the most positive message brought home by talks with the US delegation is that Islamabad has stuck to its guns on the nuclear issue and relations with India. The apprehensions of a "sell-out" on vital issues of national interest have been belied, and the government's assertion that there was no longer any US pressure on Pakistan to sign the NPT unilaterally or roll back its nuclear programme has been confirmed.

The Perry mission notwithstanding the Jama'at-i-Islami-led anti-US onslaught, has been surprisingly smooth and tension-free, and hasn't given rise to any controversy a La Douglas Hurd's open renunciation of the UN resolutions on Kashmir. Whether or not the US shares the British perception of resolving the Kashmir issue, William Perry and his associates were prudent enough to refrain from selling recipes that could be termed as an "apology for the Indian stance". Above all, the Americans were able to put across the message that they were not on a "brow beating mission", and the purpose of their visit to Islamabad was not to highlight areas of disagreement but to explore avenues of cooperation. While many would not share the optimism that a major breakthrough in Pak-US relations has been accomplished, it would be unfair to dismiss the Perry visit as inconsequential to Pakistan's quest for prestige and influence in world affairs. The revival of the CG, however symbolic it may be in terms of Pak-US cooperation in defence and foreign relations, underscores a shift in the US perception of Pakistan's role in South Asia and the neighbouring regions, and implies that the Americans are now willing to drop "surrender on the nuclear question" as a prerequisite for good behaviour. Thus, a measure of credit is due to Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto for standing firm on matters related to national security and skillfully handling the delicate tasks of negotiating with the Americans. Hopefully, the Perry visit will pave the way for establishing a new working equation with the United States.

Consultative Group Questioned

BK1301083995 Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 13 Jan 95 pp 1, 8

[Editorial: "William Perry's Bikini Visit"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pak-US relationship has all along been like a roller coaster ride with dizzying climbs threatening blackout and near nose dives pushing the riders to the verge of red out. There have been times when at the highest level, Washington described its relationship with Pakistan as a corner stone of its foreign policy and it was not so long ago that it threatened inclusion of Pakistan in its list of terrorist states. Now

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US Secretary of Defence William Perry says that Pakistan is the key to peace and stability in this region. But irrespective of some seemingly positive signals, his visit does not make it clear if we are headed for a trough or a crest.

The upshot of the visit is the revival of the Consultative Group that was set up in 1984, essentially for close coordination between our ISI [Inter-Service Intelligence] and the Americans' CIA. This group is to meet at least once a year and its first meeting is to be within the next two to three months. It is to sort out the issue of some of our weapons components sent to the United States for repairs but held back courtesy the Pressler. Another item on its agenda will be Pakistan's demand that either its US $685 million paid for the F-16s be returned or the contract for aircraft be released.

Apart from these two pressing issues, the consultative Group is to deal with the sale of spares for our defence equipment, training facilities in the United States, joint military exercises and exchange of intelligence on security related issues. None of these is new. Irrespective of Pressler, we had the freedom to buy spares and pay through the nose to keep our US-supplied weapons functional. Except for mutual exchanges of officers between staff colleges and infantry school where no money is involved, the Pressler law never prevented us from sending our men for training if we could pay an average of $60,000 to $70,000 per head. Pressler never prevented joint exercises either in the Northern Areas or around Chirah. Also, intelligence exchanges are neither mentioned in newspaper columns nor even in gossip circles. For all that we know, Pressler or no Pressler, this so-called exchange never stopped. Besides, this sector comprises highly slippery ground on which each one has to carefully decide which nugget of information to pass on without ending up face down in the mud. For instance, it is difficult to perceive the CIA informing our ISI on the exact contours of Indo-Israeli collusion or telling us all that they know of the feverish military build-up in India.

Anyway, the public in this country has no idea of our capability to sift disinformation from truth in any package passed on to us from Langley House.

One new important dimension revealed by Perry is that the Group would exchange "information about defence planning, defence budgets, defence programmes...." It is somewhat hard to visualise Washington informing Pakistan about its defence planning and defence programmes, though any withholding of information by Pakistan in case of subsequent discovery by the CIA or the DIA or any other US agencies would invite a charge of breach of trust.

Further, according to all international news agencies' reports in today's newspapers, the US is to sign a defence agreement with India which presumably, apart from duplicating the grounds covered under Pak-US revival agreement on Consultative Group, is slated to provide for US-India joint production of defence equipment. This does not contradict Perry's statement at his Islamabad meeting with hand-picked journalists that he did not envision "arms supply, providing armament and arms to the Indian Government." Under the agreement, India would get something better—a collaboration in armament production. / Under the circumstances, it is hard to visualise any significant US help in Pakistan's defence effort. At certain levels, governments do operate cynically but it is hard to believe that any defence arrangement between the US and India can be of any advantage to Pakistan and that the Consultative Group would return from Washington in March or April this year with even a piece of significant information on India's military posture. This gives rise to the question: what the Perry visit was in aid of?

The Perry visit has been like bikinis that reveal plenty but hide what is fundamental. For lack of information on the fundamentals, only the existing situation can be analysed and extrapolated to link with widely understood objectives. The NPT [Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty] is due for renegotiation in April next and the US is believed to be in favour of its indefinite extension without any revision or at least for its unrevised extension into the next century five years hence. It would like India to use its influence in the Third World to line up the required 50 or so votes that the US is now short of. He might have broached the subject with Pakistan, too, though this has not been mentioned in any public forum here. In case of Pakistan, for long the US has been for a close and brand new security relationship but on its own terms. This may or may not be called a military pact. Although none disputes hat right now, we live in a unipolar world, it is not often that the compulsive US drive to keep it that way is kept in view in evaluating various US moves. It is not known how Pakistan has reacted to the soundings Perry's team would have taken in Islamabad, for a lot of time-consuming ground work is done before any objective-related, long-term military relationships concretises. All the same, it is hard to believe that Islamabad would be in a hurry for it cannot but asks itself the question—mutual defence against whom? With Russia no longer able to serve as a credible challenge to US overlordship of all it surveys, the only two current potential bogies for Washington are China and the politically militant Islam which is denounced as fundamentalism and terrorism. China's position as the adopted number one bogey is lent weight by the ominous public-silence on the issue. It seems like the lull before the storm. The laudatory reference to Pakistan's moderation in the Islamic world is indicative of relatively farther position of the second bogey in Washington's threat perception.

Through Perry's visit, Washington has somewhat distanced itself tactically from its traditional trouble shooter Britain's advocacy of so-called elections in occupied Kashmir as a solution to the issue. In an identical vein but without giving up its avowed objective, it has also mentioned that "Pakistan is not in a position to give

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assurances unilaterally" on nuclear nonproliferation. But, it would be a fatal mistake for Pakistan to take any of these two or both together as a significant advance towards making its security environs unassailable. Any false step in line with Washington's current threat perceptions could prove fatal to its national security, for that would cut it off from its time-tested friends, none of whom is its formal ally but had always been more aligned to it than its paper allies. Severance of its ties with China and Iran can be no less drastic than abdication of the nuclear option.

Talks on SU-27 Jet, Arms Procurement Suspended

BK1301093595 Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 13 Jan 95 pp 1, 11

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Ismalabad Jan 12—The government today decided to put a temporary halt to its ongoing negotiations with different sources for procurement of various defence systems including the purchase of SU-27 from Russia.

According to well informed sources the decision in this regard was taken in today's DCC (Defence Committee of Cabinet) meeting in light of recently concluded discussions between US Defence Secretary William Perry and civil and military authorities of Pakistan.

The DCC chaired by the Prime Minister and attended by CJSC [Chairman, Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee], Services Chiefs, Ministers of Defence, Foreign Affairs, and Interior took an indepth account of Perry's visit and proposals he made to enhance Pakistan's defence capabilities to take care of Pakistan's security concerns. After reviewing all aspects the meeting decided in principle that Pakistan would not approach any other source for defence equipment until and unless a final answer is available from US on queries Mr Perry would be carrying to Washington from Pakistan.

According to sources close to the Ministry of Defence the US Defence Secretary was handed over a questionnaire seeking answers to the fate of F-16s deal or the return of 658 million dollars paid for the aircrafts, the likely US response to the provision of P3-2.5 surveillance aircraft for Pakistan Navy for which a sum of 360 million US dollars has already been paid, the US position on supply of spares for F-16 and AH attack helicopters for which Pakistan has paid 200 million US dollars. It is believed that US Secretary Defence assured the civil and military authorities of Pakistan that answers to these vital queries would be communicated to Pakistan in about 4 weeks time. The revival of the Consultative group has raised hopes that Pakistan might be able to receive its stuck-up defence equipment including 38 F-16s. US has always been a major defence partner of Pakistan and most of defence equipments presently used by its Services are of US origin. Pakistan had found it extremely difficult to explore other sources for defence equipments especially in the absence of infrastructure for new defence systems. According to sources with the fast changing to sources with the fast changing geo-political situation and Pakistan once again assuming an important strategic position in the region US policy makers are likely to offer some concessions to Pakistan.

US wants to establish its active military presence in the region and Pakistan is ideally located to serve this purpose. Pakistan is currently negotiating SU-27 and MiG-29 with Russia, conventional weapons systems and raw material with South Africa, and other defence equipments including radars and night vision devices from European sources.

A high powered defence delegation from Moscow was in Islamabad last month discuss the sale of fighter bomber and other defence equipments to Pakistan. Minister for Defence Aftab Shaban Mirani is due to visit South Africa shortly to hold advance discussions over the future procurements. President Leghari held some high-level important discussions with Chinese authorities over the defence procurements during his latest visit to China. Prime Minister Bhutto also held extensive discussions with British authorities over the defence cooperation between the two countries. Britain agreed to supply different defence systems to Pakistan including engines for tank Al-Khalid.

The DCC was also informed that Pakistan told the US Secretary Defence that it was not ready to reconsider its stand on the issue F-16 unless there is a substantive change in the US policy to have the Pressler law removed. The meeting was also informed that Pakistan once again has reaffirmed its position over the issue NPT [Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty] and US now has a better understanding of Pakistan's nuclear programme. The US, after taking these aspects into consideration has not forced Pakistan to sign NPT unilaterally. The meeting was told that the US shared Pakistan's concerns over the Indian missiles development programme and assured Pakistan to raise these concerns very forcefully during his discussions with India.

It is believed that the DCC also discussed the Karachi situation in today's deliberations. A detailed briefing was given to the meeting on circumstances leading to the closure of Indian Consulate in Karachi. The DCC also approved the purchase of some equipments for Pakistan Navy.

APP ADDS: According to a press note among others Adviser on Finance and Economic Affairs, also attended the meeting. The Chief Minister of Sindh attended the meeting by a special invitation.

UAE President al-Nuhayyan Arrives for Talks

BK1201163395 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1300 GMT 12 Jan 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] President Shaykh Zayid Bin-Sultan al-Nuhayyan was accorded a very warm welcome

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when he arrived in Islamabad a shortwhile ago. Twenty-one guns boomed as the UAE [United Arab Emirates] president alighted from his special Boeing 747. President Farooq Ahmad Khan Leghari and Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto received Shaykh Zayid Bin-Sultan at the airport. Those who received him also included Chairman, Senate, Mr. Wasim Sajjad; Chairman, Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee Air Chief Marshal Farooq Feroze Khan; Chief of Naval Staff Admiral Mansurul Haq; Chief of General Staff Lietenant General Jahangir Karamat; federal ministers; Members of Parliament, members from diplomatic corps; and other high ranking civil and military officials. Students from different schools, who have gathered at the airport to greet president Shaykh Bin-Sultan al-Nuhayyan, chanted: Pak-UAE friendship zindabad [long live]. A smartly turned out contingent of Third Baloch regiment of Pakistan Army, Pakistan Navy, and Air Force presented guard of honor.

Meets With Leghari

BK1301041395 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 0200 GMT 13 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] President Farooq Ahmad Khan Leghari said Kashmir is the basic problem between Pakistan and India. He was talking to President Shaykh Zayid Bin-Sultan al-Nuhayyan of the United Arab Emirates [UAE], who met him in Islamabad yesterday. Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto was also present at the meeting. The president said despite the atrocities against and repression of the Kashmiri people, Pakistan is exercising restraint and is extending moral and diplomatic support to only the affected people. He expressed the hope that the UAE president will use his good offices to find a peaceful solution to the Kashmir issue in accordance with ther UN Security Council resolutions. Referring to bilateral relations, President Farooq Ahmad Khan Leghari stressed the need for exploring the possibilities for further cooperation between the two countries in the economic and defense sectors, and said both countries should acquire the latest education and technology for their mutual benefit.

Stressing the need for regional peace, Shaykh Zayid Bin-Sultan al-Nuhayyan expressed the hope that Pakistan and India would find a solution to the Kashmir problem through negotiations. He said: Pakistan and UAE are friends for a long time and I am ready to do everything for Pakistan and its people.

Later, the president hosted a banquet in honor of Shaykh Zayid Bin-Sultan al-Nuhayyan and his delegation. Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto also called on the UAE president. Direct talks will be held between the UAE president and the prime minister today. Both sides will exchange views on regional and international affairs and on bilateral relations. The UAE president will also witness the horse and cattle show in Islamabad today, which has been organized in his honor.

Chinese Technology To Assist Oil Production

BK1201071195 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 0200 GMT 12 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Pakistan and China have reached an agreement on transfer of Chinese technology for improving oil and gas production. This was stated at a meeting of the Institute of Hydrocarbon Development in Islamabad yesterday. The meeting, presided over by Anwar Saifullah Khan, Federal Minister for Petroleum and Natural Resources, was also informed that the Chinese technology was the most suited for Pakistan and was much cheaper than the Western technology.

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